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the runway

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17 wedding-day beauty secrets

10 inspiring local weddings

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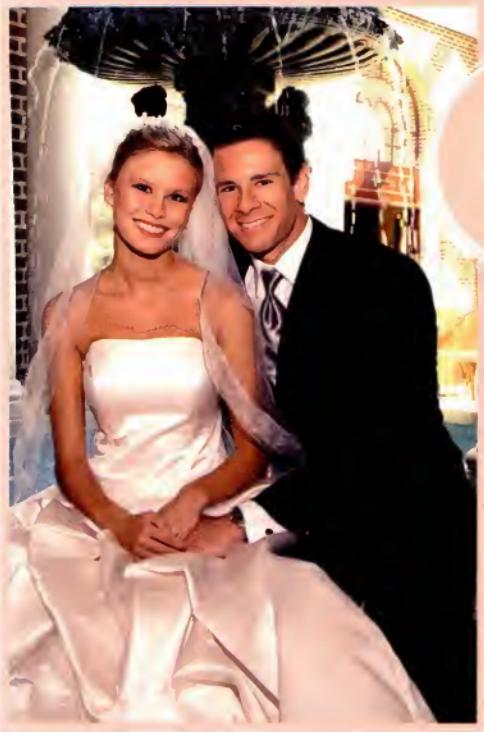


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SUMMER 2008

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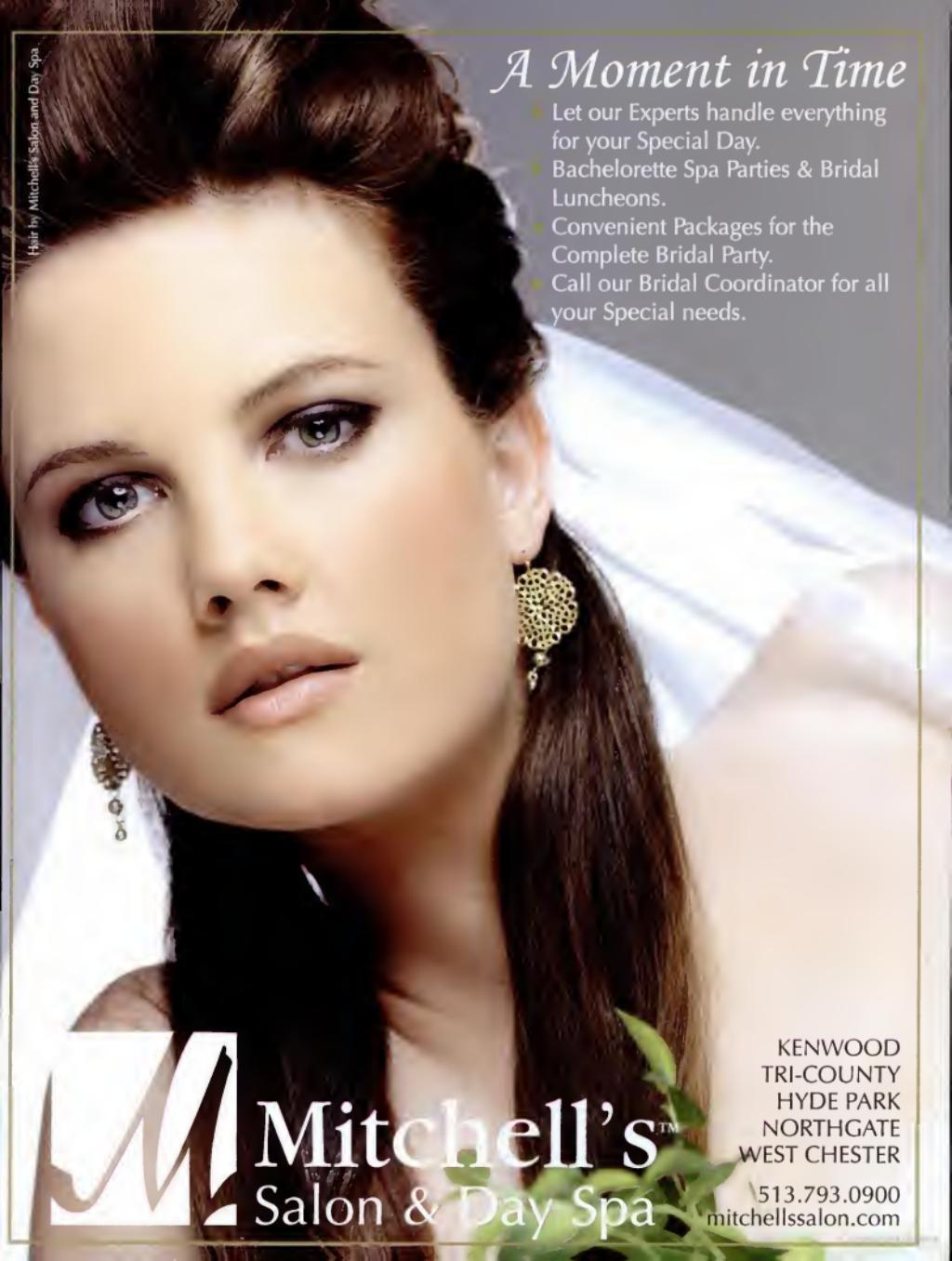
Local couples share their wedding  
day success stories, and the photo-  
graphs that captured these lifelong  
memories

► Jade is wearing an ivory silk organza gown  
by Jasmina Haute Couture, \$1,188, from  
Bridal Designs. "Dulcinea" brooch, \$480;  
"Godfather Waltz" earrings, \$375; and  
"Amsterdam" headpiece, \$625; all by Debra  
Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. Bridal  
bouquet filled with white phalaenopsis orchids  
and white roses by Swan Floral & Gift Shop.



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# meet the team



## ONLINE THIS MONTH

### REGISTER TO WIN



Discover which photographs are must-haves for your wedding, with an exclusive excerpt from Susie Coelho's book, *Style Your Dream Wedding*.

Plus, register for a chance to win the book. Contest registration ends Aug. 15, 2008.

Also, don't miss a chance at two free tickets to Playhouse in the Park's *Season of Love* series.

### REGISTER TO ATTEND

#### O'BRYONVILLE Bridal Walk

Join Cincinnati Wedding on June 28 for a tour of O'Bryonville to view the latest wedding trends including stationery, gifts, favors and more.

### LOCAL WEDDINGS

See images from more local weddings online.

### PLUS:

### WEDDING 101

Don't miss this archive of stories filled with tips and advice on everything from honeymoon destinations to changing your name.

### ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Mark your calendars with the updated list of bridal events happening in Cincinnati USA.

### GOWN GALLERY

Peruse the gown gallery for designer looks to help you pinpoint your perfect look.

[www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com](http://www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com)



Though it's sometimes behind the scenes, Associate Editor **Jessica R. Brown** has been a big contributor to *Cincinnati Wedding* the last three years—from writing the occasional article to chasing down merchandise details for our twice-a-year wedding photo shoots. This issue marks her last with us; as Jessica and her husband, Aaron, move south to Atlanta. No doubt you'll see Jessica's name

in the magazine again, as she'll continue to write for *Cincinnati Wedding* as a freelance contributor. Thanks Jessica, we'll miss you!

**Coleen Armstrong** brought a sunny approach to covering the wedding of WRK-TV's Michelle Boutillette, while keeping an eye out for interesting weddings to include in our *Local Wedding Album*. Coleen is a writer, editor, radio and television host and all-around advice maven.

It's not easy finding the right dress for six different "bridesmaids," and two "brides," all the while finding ideal photo ops at three different locations. Yet, as per usual, photo stylist extraordinaire **Kate Gallion** made it all look easy...and beautiful.

Photographer **Ryan Kurtz** aimed his considerable behind-the-lens talents toward creating a unique, vintage feel for our main gown photo shoot. Experienced with both commercial, advertising and editorial photography, Kurtz has shot for a broad range of publications including *Cincinnati Magazine*, *BusinessWeek*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, *People* and *Wine Spectator*.

As managing vice president and lead stylist at Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa, **Vivian Moore** brought a wealth of experience to this issue's shoot. A photo shoot veteran with a bag of hair-styling tricks, Moore created the perfect "dos" for our classically compelling look.

CCM graduate **Kendall Stoltz** has a wide variety of makeup credits to her name, including work on feature films, television and in print. We were glad to have her back after a brief hiatus during which she gave birth to daughter Stella.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to the staffs of the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza and Krohn Conservatory for all their help during our three-day photo shoot.



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# finding timeless inspiration

**T**he first "discussion" (translation: argument) my wife and I had as a married couple came just two days into our 10-year-and-growing marriage. We were walking down a seedy street in San Francisco. It was our honeymoon.

Being the live-for-the-moment-type, she turned down a blind alley wanting to explore the less familiar parts of one of our favorite cities. Being the planner-type, my patience was wearing thin as the clock ticked 10 minutes past our dinner reservation. The fact that the alley was littered with police caution tape didn't help matters.

Despite that momentary break in our newlywed bliss, I wouldn't have changed a moment of our hustle-and-bustle honeymoon in the city. For us, the city's energy created a sense of adventure and romance I don't think we could have found in many other settings. Plus, from my experience, if you and your spouse can work together to navigate an unfamiliar city's subway map, your chances for a long, healthy marriage are probably better than average. Think about it, most successful marriages come down to a few basics: communication, respect, patience and a pinch of romance—not that different from the qualities required to get the most from a journey to a new city (check out *The Urban Honeymoon*, page 30).

Our own city has had much to celebrate lately, with new developments, attractions and restaurants adding zest to the region. Just ask WKRC-TV Meteorologist Michelle Boutillette who purposely booked out-of-town guests downtown—even though her ceremony was held in Oakley—so that they could experience the city's renewal first hand (*Blue Skies*, page 64).

In addition to all the "new," many regional stalwarts appear healthier than ever. For example, both the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal and the Krohn Conservatory hosted major exhibits this year, while celebrating their 75th anniversaries.

That got the staff of *Cincinnati Wedding* thinking: What would a current-day wedding look like if it was heavily influenced by styles popular three quarters of a century ago? I think you'll find plenty of inspiration for your wedding in the resulting photographs, whether you want the daring feel of the 1920s, the sophistication of the 1930s or the classic Hollywood glamour of the 1940s—all timeless styles that look as good today as they did 75 years ago.

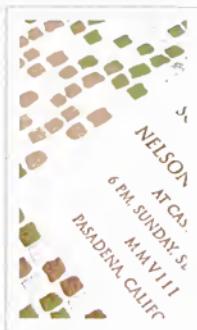
After all, timeless is a good goal for a bride, both in searching for a wedding gown, and in marriage. In both cases, patience will serve you well. Sometimes that means trying on one more dress even though your feet are aching. And sometimes that means smiling when your spouse turns down a blind alley even though you're 10 minutes late for dinner.



Steve Smith, Editor

sjsmith@cintimag.emmis.com

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**ANTICIPATE** - Shower Invitations & Gifts girls love paper! invitations, gift wrap, cards and gifts

**GREET** - Program introduce your guests to the wedding party and ceremony

**ESCORT** - Placecards seat your guests in style

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**THANK** - Informal Notecards appreciate the participation, the memories and the gifts

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# events calendar

LOCAL AND REGIONAL WEDDING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

## First Wednesday of the Month

### WEDDING CONNECTION

### COCKTAIL PARTY & TASTING

The Madison South, Covington

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Network with top wedding vendors while enjoying complimentary cocktails and food tastings courtesy of The Madison. RSVP required.

Information: 859-261-1117

[www.thcovingtonmadison.com](http://www.thcovingtonmadison.com)

## Third Saturday of the Month

### MADISON AVENUE WEDDING MALL

### CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

The Madison, Covington

Noon-2 p.m.

Mingle with local wedding professionals over brunch and cocktails. Each pre-registered bride will receive a goody bag. RSVP required.

Cost: Free for brides and grooms;

\$5 for each guest

Information: 859-261-1117

[www.thcovingtonmadison.com](http://www.thcovingtonmadison.com)

## June 21-23

### MEG JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW

Donna Salers' Fabulous-Bridal

Boutique, Covington

Meet designer Meg Lammers and check out her nature-inspired collection of contemporary bridal accessories.

Information: 859-291-9222

[www.fabulous-bridal.com](http://www.fabulous-bridal.com)

## June 28

### O'BRYONVILLE BRIDAL WALK

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Join Cincinnati Wedding for a tour of O'Bryonville to view the latest wedding trends including stationery, gifts, favors and more.

Cost: \$5

Information: 513-562-2361

[www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com](http://www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com)

## July 9

### WEDDINGS 101

Destiny Yacht

A panel of wedding experts presents a crash course on everything you need to know to plan the perfect day.

Information: [info@yourweddingmafia.com](mailto:info@yourweddingmafia.com)

[www.yourweddingmafia.com](http://www.yourweddingmafia.com)

## July 18-20

### WATTERS & WATTERS

### TRUNK SHOW

Bridal and Formal, Reading

Browse award-winning designer Vatana Watters' collection of innovative, yet sophisticated wedding gowns.

Information: 513-821-5622

[www.bridalandformalinc.com](http://www.bridalandformalinc.com)

## July 23

### VEILS AND COCKTAILS

The Madison, Covington

6:30-9:30 p.m.

Explore the offerings of 50 wedding vendors while savoring hors d'oeuvres and ice bar martinis. The night includes a Fabulous-Bridal fashion show and the chance to win prizes including a rehearsal dinner package valued at \$1,500 and wedding gown valued at \$1,000. RSVP required.

Cost: \$15

Information: 859-261-1117

[www.fabulous-bridal.com](http://www.fabulous-bridal.com)

## July 27

### BRIDALRAMA

Cincinnati Convention Center

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

From cakes to carriages and dresses to DJs, hundreds of wedding vendors will be available to help you complete your wedding plans. Don't miss the fashion show presented by Bridal and Formal and Skeffington's Formal Wear, and get a free hair consultation courtesy of Chappies Hair Design. Cost: \$10, \$2 discount coupon available at Skeffington's Formal Wear locations.

Information: 888-323-2966

[www.bridalrama.net](http://www.bridalrama.net)

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**August 1-3****ALFRED ANGELO****SUPER TRUNK SHOW****Bridal and Formal, Reading**

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**Information:** 513-821-6622[www.bridalandformalinc.com](http://www.bridalandformalinc.com)**August 6****WEDDINGS 101****Cincinnati Marriott North, West Chester**

A panel of wedding experts presents a crash course on everything you need to know to plan the perfect day.

**Information:** info@[yourweddingmafia.com](http://yourweddingmafia.com)[www.yourweddingmafia.com](http://www.yourweddingmafia.com)**August 8-10****AMSALE, KENNETH POOL TRUNK SHOW****Bridal and Formal, Reading**

Explore these edgy designers' latest line of striking gowns.

**Information:** 513-821-6622[www.bridalandformalinc.com](http://www.bridalandformalinc.com)**August 15-17****ROMONA KEVEZA TRUNK SHOW****Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique, Covington**

Check out Romona Keveza's latest line of glamorous gowns.

**Information:** 859-291-9222[www.fabulous-bridal.com](http://www.fabulous-bridal.com)**September 21****CINCINNATI'S PREMIER BRIDAL EXPO****Cincinnati Marriott Northeast****11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Whether you're finalizing plans or just getting started, wedding professionals will be on hand to help you prepare your perfect day.

**Cost:** \$8, \$2 discount coupon on Web site.**Information:** 937-748-0247[www.cincinnatibridalexpo.com](http://www.cincinnatibridalexpo.com)**October 1 and 8****TYING THE KNOT WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK****University of Cincinnati****7-9:30 p.m.**

Learn expert tips on how to avoid the financial pitfalls of planning a wedding from professional bridal consultant Brigid Horne-Nestor, owner of I-do Weddings & Events. Cost: \$44

**Registration required, call 513-556-6932 to register for class #6108-01.**

**Information:**[www.i-do-weddings.com](http://www.i-do-weddings.com)**October 8****WEDDINGS 101****Kings Island Resort**

A panel of wedding experts presents a crash course on everything you need to know to plan the perfect day.

**Information:** info@[yourweddingmafia.com](http://yourweddingmafia.com)[www.yourweddingmafia.com](http://www.yourweddingmafia.com)**October 12****CINCINNATI MANOR HOUSE BRIDAL SHOW****Manor House Banquet and Conference Center, Mason****11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Meet with 80 local wedding professionals ready to help you finalize your wedding plans. Check out fashion shows and register for prizes, giveaways and discounts. Cost: \$8, \$2 discount coupon on Web site.

**Information:** www.[cincinnatibridalexpo.com](http://cincinnatibridalexpo.com)

For more bridal events throughout the year, visit the online calendar at [www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com](http://www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com).

Organizations: Let us know about your bridal events via e-mail to: sjsmith@cintimag.emmis.com.

**about the cover****—THE DRESS—**

Strapless mermaid gown with beaded bodice by Ysa Makino, \$2,900, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique.

**—THE ACCESSORIES—**

18 k gold baguette and round brilliant diamond tennis bracelet \$9,995; and diamond ring by Gottlieb & Sons, \$2,980, both from Yelton's Fine Jewelry, Gloves, \$95; earrings, \$149; and veil, \$95, all from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique.

**—THE GUY—**

Classic black tuxedo by Ralph Lauren, with cuff links and bow tie; shoes by After Six, rental price \$120; all from Peppe Ramundo & Son.

**—THE CAR—**

Special thanks to local collector Mike Mereness for providing his 1935 Auburn 851 Phaeton.

**Photograph by Ryan Kurtz****Styling by Kate Gallion****Makeup by Kendall Stolt****Hair by Vivian Moore****Location Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal**

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# great gifts

▲ "Lily of the Valley" fine china set, \$159 (for 5-piece place setting), from the Martha Stewart Collection, by Wedgwood, at Macy's.



1

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## bridesmaids



3



4

5



① "Original" 14k gold ring by Moxie, \$995, with 14k gold "Blue Mystic" bead by Pandora, \$180. Sterling silver ring by Moxie, \$95. Beads by Trollbeads, \$25 each, all from Yetton's Fine Jewelry. ② Watch by Hip Chic Couture, \$86, from Carrie Karbo Bridesmaids. ③ "Pink Cherry" bag, \$60; and tea ceremony clutch, \$70; both by Etsuko Adachi from MiCA contemporary craft. ④ Anne Taintor tissues, \$2.50 each, from Pizazz Studio. ⑤ Frames left to right: \$52 and \$48, both from Lillian C. Limited; "The Girls," frame, \$44, by Marye-Kelley, from Nest.



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## groomsmen



① Left to right: Golf ball bottle opener, \$9, from Lillian C. Limited. Golf ball wine bottle topper, \$30; golf club luggage tag, \$14; golf key ring, \$7.50; all from Camargo Trading Company. ② Bearbuck head jigger, \$32, and Labrador head jigger, \$27, both from Lillian C. Limited. ③ Cigar tube, \$22, from Lillian C. Limited. ④ Wine arc, \$30, from Lillian C. Limited. ⑤ From top: "Checker" and "Pebbles" money clips, \$50 each, from MiCA contemporary craft.



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1



2



## for the bride

3



1 Pearl strand, \$500, and earrings, \$75, from The Richter & Phillips Co. 2 From left: "Brielle" brushed silver charm suspended from 14k gold chain and engraved silver tag, \$300; "Reese" brushed silver engraved ring with 18k wire band, \$220; both by Jeanine Payer, from Sara Benjamin's. 3 From left: Brush, \$48.40; body crème (container top can be engraved), \$55; dusting silk, \$35.20; all by Lady Primrose, from Mia Del. 4 "Paradis" lingerie set, \$195 and \$69, by Simone Pérle, from La Silhouette.

Alex Sepkus

Simon G.

Oris Watches

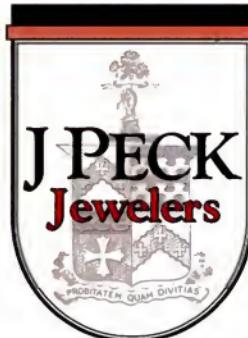
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① "Oak Leaf," "Owl," and "Quill" graphite objects, \$57 each, by A S Battle Company, from Tulips on Erie. ② Field glasses in leather case, \$64, from Lillian C. Limited. ③ Cross pen, \$240, from Bankhardt's. ④ Burberry ties, \$145 each, from Mike & Carol Trotta. Leather tie case, \$50, from Lillian C. Limited. ⑤ Oris WilliamsF1 Team chronograph, \$3,495, from J Peck Jewelers.

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1



2



3



## for the home



4



5



**1** Monogrammed, maple cutting board, \$74.50, by Chubbco, from The Art of Entertaining. **2** Hand-painted doomed cake plate, \$75, and hand-painted frosted glasses, \$22 each, by Golden Hill Studio, all from Sterling Cut Glass. **3** Self-inking monogram stamp, \$30, and cards, \$14, from Nest. **4** From left: Linen frame, \$42; "Yellow Rose" frame, \$36, both by Fringe, from Tulips on Erie; Bijoux Collection frame by Bella Fiore, \$372, from Camargo Trading Company. **5** William Bounds pepper mills, \$42.95-\$74.95, from Pizazz Studio.



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# the urban honeymoon

CITY DESTINATIONS CAN BE AN INVIGORATING ALTERNATIVE  
FOR YOUR FIRST TRIP AS NEWLYWEDS

by jessica gordon

**T**he beach vacation has become a honeymooning institution the world over. But for some newlyweds, surf and sand seems, well, cliché. And dare I say...a bit of a snooze fest. For some, an urban honeymoon strikes the right balance between activity and relaxation.

For example, when Meredith and Josh Koch of Mt. Lookout married in 2006, they weighed their honeymooning options carefully. "We thought a long time about what we

wanted to do—and we both said Colorado," Meredith explains. The couple flew into Denver to begin their vacation. "We parked our car in the middle of downtown and asked people, 'Where's a good place to eat?'" Meredith remembers. Then they drove four hours to Aspen. "It was nice not to go to the beach and lay on the sand all day."

When Tina and Kevin Sheppard wed in the summer of 2002, they decided to honeymoon in Seattle, Wash. "Our friends thought it was kind of strange," Tina recalls. "They

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thought it was funny we wanted to go somewhere known for being cold and rainy."

But the bustling Northeast city suited the couple well. "Going to a beach or someplace where you just sit is not something we're interested in," Kevin explains. "Seattle was kind of a random choice just because we hadn't been there. We wanted some place we could be active and enjoy each other's company," he adds.

During their five-day city honeymoon, the couple explored Seattle and took a couple of day trips. One of these excursions was to nearby Fremont, Wash. "The whole town of Fremont is really fun," Tina says. "When you drive in, you're greeted by a statue of Lenin. And there's a troll carved into the rocks under an underpass. Its hand is holding a Volkswagen bug permanently there." Yes, you read that correctly. The Fremont troll carved out of the rocks beneath one of the city's underpasses is so large that his hand wraps entirely around an actual Volkswagen Beetle.

The couple also spent a day at Mt. Rainier. Mainly the Sheppards explored the city and basked in their newly wedded status. "We did a lot of walking around town," Tina recalls. "We really enjoyed that."

For those who think a city honeymoon offers no time for relaxation, Tina confesses, "We took a nap every day."

Plus, says Jane Jones, general manager, Provident Travel. "A lot of hotels have spas, spa treatments, health clubs and exercise facilities. Even if it's just a candlelit rooftop dinner, there are a lot of ways to make it as relaxing as you want."

Bucking honeymoon traditions isn't the only reason to choose an urban destination over a sun-drenched, tropical locale. "In my experience, couples who choose a city

honeymoon do not have the time, or maybe the finances, to go on a more lengthy vacation," says Cindy Berre, a travel consultant with The Travel Authority. "Honeymooning in the city allows the couple to drive, rather than fly."

In addition to saving time, a city honeymoon may save money. "Cities also often have 'free' entertainment, such as free admission to some museums, sidewalk entertainment, and just enjoying the sights of the city," Berre says.

If you do have the money to splurge on romantic indulgences, there are plenty of urban offerings to complement all those whispered sweet nothings. Upscale hotels offer luxury accommodations that include romance packages, Berre explains. "That package could include a romantic dinner for two, couples' massage, a carriage ride through the city, etc."

Choosing an urban honeymoon also means you'll have all the cultural and culinary locales you could possibly desire. "Cities offer theater, concerts, sporting events, dining experiences, shopping, art galleries, historical sites, people watching and museums, to name a few," Berre adds.

When Kevin Sheppard lists off the most memorable things about his and Tina's honeymoon, he doesn't recall a particular dinner or event. "No. 1, it was the feel of just being married," he remembers. "No. 2, how tired we were. No. 3, just being able to experience the city, walking up and down the streets, looking at the shops."

If you decide to opt for an urban honeymoon, the Sheppards advise you to prepare well beforehand. "Definitely get good maps," Kevin advises. "Do that beforehand. Buy them in a bookstore or order online." Then do some Web research to help you plan your trip.

cw

## check out these urban destinations

### New York City

The Big Apple literally has it all. With thousands of restaurants to choose from featuring flavors from around the globe, eating is as good a reason as any to visit New York City. Twice yearly, New York has a two-week "Restaurant Week." During this food extravaganza, many of the city's restaurants offer affordable prix fixe menus so you can sample some of New York's finest cuisine without blowing the entire honeymoon budget. For 2008, the price is set at \$24.07 for lunch and \$35 and up for dinner. Dates for the July 2008 "Restaurant Week" are posted in June.

For a fresh perspective on the city, sign up for a Big Onion Walking Tour. Doctoral candidates offer tours of

overlooked treasures, such as the artisanal markets of the Lower East Side and the clubs of historic Harlem. Or get your cultural fix at one of the city's numerous museums, including the newly reopened New Museum of Contemporary Art.

Top off the experience by doing some serious shopping in any number of the city's eclectic neighborhoods. And don't forget to take in a show, whether you see a Broadway spectacle, watch the ballet or attend an unknown play in a small theatre.

Here are a couple of excellent Web sites to help you get started planning a New York City honeymoon, including the city's site: [www.nycvisit.com](http://www.nycvisit.com) and New York magazine's site: <http://nymag.com>.



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## Portland, Maine

This small town of 66,000, just two hours northeast of Boston offers a surprising array of attractions for its size. Good food, shopping and entertainment in a beautiful setting (the city is nestled in Casco Bay) make Portland a perfect choice for a honeymooning couple. The laid-back feel of the town sets the right mood for a relaxing vacation.

Start the day with coffee and breakfast at one of the city's inviting coffee shops. If you like bagels, visit One Fifty Ate for one of the most amazing specimens you're ever likely to try. Once you've filled your stomach, stroll along the brick-and-cobblestone streets of the waterfront Old Port Exchange and do some shopping—nearly all of the beautifully well-kept stores are independently owned. In particular, make sure to check out the Angela Adams store for gorgeous Maine-inspired textiles and accessories.

Check out this Web site for help planning your trip: [www.portlandmaine.com](http://www.portlandmaine.com).

## San Francisco

Honeymooning in San Francisco gives you the best of both worlds—bustling city life and scenic beaches. However, don't expect the same kind of beach experience as you would enjoy in the Caribbean or even in Los Angeles. It's often chilly in San

Francisco, and many times foggy as well. For a wildlife beach experience, check out the Point Reyes National Seashore, a 71,000-acre stretch of rugged wilderness, and one of San Francisco's best-kept secrets. It's a great place for hiking, whale watching and birding.

You may want to plan your trip to San Francisco around your stomach. With thousands of restaurants to choose from, you'll have a hard time narrowing it down. San Francisco is best known for its fresh, ingredient-driven cuisine. In addition to eating, you should also take advantage of the wineries in abundance in and around the city; the winery-rich areas of Napa and Sonoma offer beautiful scenery, lots to do and, of course, a seemingly endless supply of wine to taste.

Like New York, San Francisco has a wonderful selection of museums, galleries, shopping and parks. For help planning a trip to San Francisco, check out these Web sites: the official visitors' guide, [www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com](http://www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com) and [www.sanfrancisco.com](http://www.sanfrancisco.com).

## Chicago

In this booming Midwest city, you'll find everything you could want for a splendid honeymoon, including tons of entertainment and cultural options, great dining choices and world-class shopping. Plus there are plenty of relaxing

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activities as well as wonderful outdoor spaces to explore and enjoy. Chicago has 29 miles of lakefront walking, jogging and biking paths as well as 13 miles of beaches.

Plus it's an easy flight, or even drive, from Cincinnati. "Cities like Chicago offer wonderful, close-to-home experiences," says Jane Jones, general manager, Provident Travel.

In temperate weather, the city becomes a veritable playground with its parks, conservatories and the free Lincoln Park Zoo. Make sure to visit Millennium Park and check out the rounded metallic Cloud Gate sculpture, affectionately nicknamed "The Bean" by Chicagoans. If it's a hot day, stroll over to the Crown Fountain in Millennium Park and watch children playing in the stream of water that shoots out of the mouths of the changing faces displayed on the 50-foot glass block towers. For more information on what you'll find in Millennium Park, check out [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org).

Chicago's museums are a reason to visit the city in and of themselves. No trip to the Windy City is complete without a visit to The Art Institute of Chicago. There's also Shedd Aquarium and the natural history museum, The Field Museum.

Walk a few steps in any direction in any neighborhood, and you're bound to find plenty of fabulous eateries. Consider walking around Wicker Park and Bucktown. In

search of a meal. Both neighborhoods are historic areas that have been revitalized and are now full of unique shops and restaurants.

As you begin planning your trip, consult these Web sites, including the mayor's Web site for visitors: [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org) and [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com). Chicago also has some great visitor's resources, including a customized shopping tour service and a free "Chicago Greeter" service. Visit [www.chicagogreeter.com](http://www.chicagogreeter.com) to be matched up with a Chicago resident who volunteers to take visitors around the city.

## Miami

If you want to add some sizzle to your honeymoon, few American cities have the sex appeal of Miami. South Florida has all the sun and sand you'd expect from a traditional honeymoon, while also offering big-city dining, nightlife and entertainment—perfect for a couple who likes the party life. Nowhere is the party more lively, nor "the beautiful people" more beautiful, than on South Beach, where beaches, shopping, clubs and people-watching make for a Riviera-like experience. And if you grow weary of the late-night scene, Miami also has the arts, museums and sports you'd expect of a large city. Learn more at [www.miami-florida.com](http://www.miami-florida.com) and [www.miami.com](http://www.miami.com).



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# beauty mark

LOCAL EXPERTS PROVIDE ANSWERS TO YOUR  
BIGGEST WEDDING DAY BEAUTY QUESTIONS

by jessica r. brown

**M**ake sure that all your inner beauty is radiated outward with a little help from local experts' answers to your most pressing wedding beauty questions.

**Q:** What is the most important beauty tip you would offer a bride?

**HAMILTON:** Wet to set...any wet makeup you apply should be set with a powder, such as foundation powder, concealer powder, etc. Alternate layers to keep your makeup lasting longer.

**DAWSON:** Whether you hire a pro makeup artist or DIY, collect inspirational pictures of makeup looks you love so you have a clear idea of your desired style. Dramatic and natural are very relative terms.

**CHEROT:** Keep it simple and natural—your wedding day is not the best day to try out new looks or do things that aren't you or your style. Keep with what you like and know, and what works for your skin tone.

**Q:** How do I make sure my lipstick will last the entire day?

**DAWSON:** Many long-wearing lipsticks can look dry and cake-like; instead try a lip stain, such as Benetint by Benefit. You can always apply a gloss on top of it, if you prefer a shinier look.

## MEET THE PANEL

**CHENESE BEAN**  
makeup artist

**SUSAN D.  
BERNSTEIN, D.D.S.**  
cosmetic dentist

**SARAH J.  
CHEROT**  
owner, Cher-Chique  
Boutique + Beauty Bar

**NANCY DAWSON**  
makeup artist and  
owner, Brideface

**KATHLEEN  
HAMILTON**  
esthetician, The  
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**CHRIS MANN**  
owner, The  
Woodhouse Day Spa

**VIVIAN MOORE**  
managing vice president,  
Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa

**WENDY WESLEY**  
nail department manager,  
Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa

**CHEROT:** It's good to start with a primer on the lips, for example NVEY ECO's Organic Erase. Lipstick will typically last for a while; however it's always good to keep your tube with you throughout the day to reapply as needed.

**Q: What's the best approach for an outdoor wedding?**

**DAWSON:** If you are concerned about perspiration ruining your makeup, I can't say too many good things about Model in a Bottle setting spray. It's like hairspray for your face and has a great matte finish, so you won't look greasy in pictures.

**Q: Weddings can be emotional; suggestions to keep makeup flawless?**

**DAWSON:** Use a hanky instead of tissues (no lint in lashes!) and dab; don't rub when those tears start flowing.

**HAMILTON:** If you get your makeup done professionally, they'll usually give you a kit to take with you for last-minute touchups. If you do your makeup yourself, bring a homemade kit to the wedding, include pressed powder, lip color, blush, eyeliner, tissues, makeup sponges and a mirror.

**Q: What are the latest trends in wedding makeup?**

**DAWSON:** Lashes! There is a reason everyone on the red carpet is wearing them; they open up the eye and give you definition and pop!

**BEAN:** Using shimmer blush on top of the cheeks and in the middle part of the forehead to give a glow to skin. Photography captures this technique beautifully.

**Q: What do you suggest for picture-perfect white teeth for your wedding day?**

**BERNSTEIN:** Today, a picture-perfect white smile is something most brides can achieve. The best method is at the dental office with laser whitening. In my practice,

we offer Britesmile, which is a two-hour light-activated whitening process.

**Q: What should a bride bring to a wedding hair consultation?**

**MOORE:** A picture of herself in her wedding dress and veil or hair accessories if final decisions have been made. Also, pictures of hairstyles she likes and a few examples of styles she doesn't; these don't have to be bridal images.

**Q: What advice can you offer for keeping that up-do flawless for the entire event?**

**MOORE:** Let your stylist know as many details of your wedding day as possible. Will the pictures be inside, outside or both? Will the reception be immediately following the ceremony? What transportation have you arranged—limo, carriage or anything open? Then make sure to assign the job of watching your hair to someone who has a can of Bb Spray de Mode with her at all times.

**Q: What is a service to get just a day or two before the wedding to relieve stress?**

**MANN:** I wouldn't recommend getting a facial because the dirt in your pores along with the stress of the wedding may cause a breakout. It's best to plan ahead for your face, and go the day before to relax with a manicure, pedicure or massage.

**Q: What are the trends in wedding nail treatments?**

**MANN:** Keeping it simple. A light color or soft French seems to be our most popular right now.

**WESLEY:** French manicures have come a long way and we are seeing a lot more shimmer put on top of the white tip. Pedicures are either matching the manicure, or they are going with a color that complements the flowers or the bridesmaid dresses. **CW**



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## 6 to 12 months before the wedding

- select a wedding date (and a backup date)
- announce your engagement in local paper
- plan an engagement party for family and friends
- research bridal shows in the area and plan to attend
- decide if you wish to work with a bridal consultant
- determine a preliminary budget
- decide how expenses will be shared
- call for an appointment with your officiate
- decide on a wedding planner or computer program to keep organized
- select and book the site for the ceremony
- decide the type of wedding (size, formality)
- start wedding guest list
- ask bridal attendants to be in your wedding
- ponder ideas for reception (food, entertainment)
- select and book reception site
- book professional photographer
- book videographer
- book caterer (if necessary)
- book musician or disc jockey
- book florist
- shop together for wedding rings
- decide on the color scheme for the wedding
- choose bridal gown, headpiece and accessories
- choose bridesmaids' dresses and accessories
- plan and book honeymoon

## 4 to 6 months before the wedding

- check the requirements for marriage license
- discuss colors schemes and flowers with florist
- decide on gift registries and make your choices
- reserve rental equipment such as chairs, tables, tents, etc.
- order invitations and related stationery needs
- book calligrapher, if necessary
- reserve transportation for wedding day
- select music for ceremony and reception
- order wedding cake
- order favors
- purchase or reserve the mens' wedding attire
- review contracts with vendors and service providers
- book accommodations for out-of-town guests
- consider taking dance lessons if you need them

## 2 months before the wedding

- mail invitations
- meet with officiate

- plan your ceremony—if you're writing your wedding vows, write them now
- purchase guest book and other wedding-day needs
- discuss details of menu with caterer
- arrange and plan rehearsal dinner
- consider trial runs with hairdresser and makeup artist
- finalize honeymoon plans

## 1 month before the wedding

- final fitting for bridal attendants
- obtain marriage license
- print your programs
- purchase going-away outfit
- finalize arrangements with musicians/entertainment
- provide a list of songs you would like played (or not played)
- finalize music during special events such as first dance, dance with dad, etc.

## 2 weeks before the wedding

- final bridal-gown fitting
- pick up your wedding rings
- contact guests who have not responded to your invitations
- arrange seating plan, if necessary
- confirm details with caterer and inform caterer of total guest count

## 1 week before the wedding

- make sure marriage license is in order
- pick up gown or have it delivered
- have final beauty treatments
- confirm details with florist
- confirm honeymoon reservations
- pack bags for honeymoon
- hold rehearsal dinner
- inform bridal party on their tasks on the day of the wedding
- be certain that all wedding attire fits properly
- confirm transportation and sleeping accommodations for out-of-town guests

## your wedding day

- allow at least two hours for dressing
- allow time to apply makeup and style hair
- allow time for photographs if they are to be taken before the ceremony
- remember your rings and marriage license
- relax and enjoy your big day!

# bridal beauty plan

FOLLOW THIS TIMELINE FOR LOOKING AND FEELING YOUR BEST

## 6-9 months before:

- [ ] Gather a list of wedding makeup artists.
- [ ] Schedule monthly appointments at the spa and/or dermatologist for facials and related skin treatments. Have them recommend a daily skin care routine that best fits your skin type.
- [ ] Start receiving monthly haircuts and conditioning treatments.
- [ ] Consider weekly sessions with a personal trainer and/or weekly fitness classes.
- [ ] Consult with friends, magazines, etc., to start planning the length, style and shape you want for your wedding-day hairstyle.
- [ ] Drink eight to 10 glasses of water each day and get eight hours of sleep.

## 4-6 months before:

- [ ] Try out potential makeup artists by having a few do your makeup.
- [ ] Schedule your wedding day hair appointment, as well as plan for a trial hairstyling six to eight weeks before your event.

- [ ] Book monthly hair removal appointments—either waxing or laser hair removal.
- [ ] Begin monthly eyebrow appointments.

## 2-4 months before:

- [ ] If you are going to tan, now would be a good time to start tanning sessions and/or do a trial airbrush tanning to preview the results.
- [ ] Have your hairstylist conduct a trial run-through that incorporates your veil or headpiece, if you are wearing one. Wear a top that mimics your wedding gown's neckline.

## 1 month before:

- [ ] Reconfirm hair and makeup professionals for the big day.
- [ ] Consider visiting your dentist for a teeth cleaning, as well as teeth whitening and/or start an at-home regimen.
- [ ] Select and treat yourself to a wedding-day perfume or fragrance.

## 1-2 weeks before:

- [ ] Visit the spa/salon for final haircut and color, as well as a final facial, hair removal session and brow-shaping treatment.
- [ ] Consider a massage and/or body-scrub treatment.
- [ ] Prepare your wedding day beauty kit, including a lipgloss, fragrance, powder, blush and blotting papers.
- [ ] Prepare your honeymoon beauty kit, including sample sizes of all of your favorite products.
- [ ] If you've opted for airbrush tanning, have your final appointment now.

## 1 day before:

- [ ] Visit a spa for a manicure and pedicure in preparation for the big day.

## Wedding day:

- [ ] Final hair and makeup.
- [ ] Relax and enjoy!

# registry checklist

OUTFIT YOUR HOME WITH THESE TIMELESS ESSENTIALS

## dinnerware

- [ ] Eight to 12 everyday place settings: dinner plates, salad/dessert plates, bread & butter plates, bowls, teacups with saucers, or mugs
- [ ] Eight to 12 fine china place settings: dinner plates, salad/dessert plates, bread & butter plates, bowls, teacups with saucers, or mugs
- [ ] Sugar bowl and creamer
- [ ] Serving bowls and platters
- [ ] Butter dish

## flatware

- [ ] Eight to 12 five-piece flatware settings
- [ ] Hostess sets

## crystal/glassware

- [ ] Eight to 12 wine glasses (for red and white)
- [ ] Highballs/tumblers
- [ ] Double old-fashioned glasses
- [ ] Martini glasses
- [ ] Champagne flutes
- [ ] Iced-beverage glasses

## appliances

- [ ] Toaster oven/toaster
- [ ] Microwave oven/convection oven
- [ ] Stand mixer
- [ ] Hand mixer
- [ ] Blender
- [ ] Food processor/mini food processor
- [ ] Coffee/cappuccino machine
- [ ] Coffee grinder
- [ ] Ice-cream maker

## kitchenware

- [ ] Steak knives
- [ ] Paring, serrated, slicing and chef's knives
- [ ] Cheese knives
- [ ] Sharpening steel
- [ ] Knife block/magnetic knife bar
- [ ] Kitchen shears
- [ ] Cutting boards (multiple)
- [ ] Mixing bowls (microwave; dishwasher safe)
- [ ] Grater
- [ ] Measuring cups and spoons
- [ ] Slotted and solid spoons

## 

- [ ] Slotted and solid spatulas
- [ ] Wooden spoons
- [ ] Salad spinner
- [ ] Whisk
- [ ] Can/bottle opener
- [ ] Wine opener
- [ ] Instant-read thermometer
- [ ] Potato masher
- [ ] Ice-cream scoop
- [ ] Salt shaker and pepper mill
- [ ] Vegetable peeler
- [ ] Kitchen timer

## cooking/baking

- [ ] Saucepans (1½-, 2-, 3- or 4-quart)
- [ ] Stock pot/pasta pot
- [ ] Skillet/frying pans
- [ ] Sauté pan
- [ ] Grill pan
- [ ] Roaster and rack
- [ ] Tea kettle
- [ ] Large baking sheets
- [ ] Ceramic pie dish/metal pie pans
- [ ] Muffin pans
- [ ] Loaf pans
- [ ] Round cake pans

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**photographs**

ryan kurtz

**styling**

kate gallion

**makeup**

kendall stolz

**hair stylist**

vivian moore,

Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa

**models**

jocelyn & andrew courtesy  
of Wings Model Management;  
jade courtesy of Seven Models

**shot on location at**

Cincinnati Museum Center  
at Union Terminal  
and Krohn Conservatory



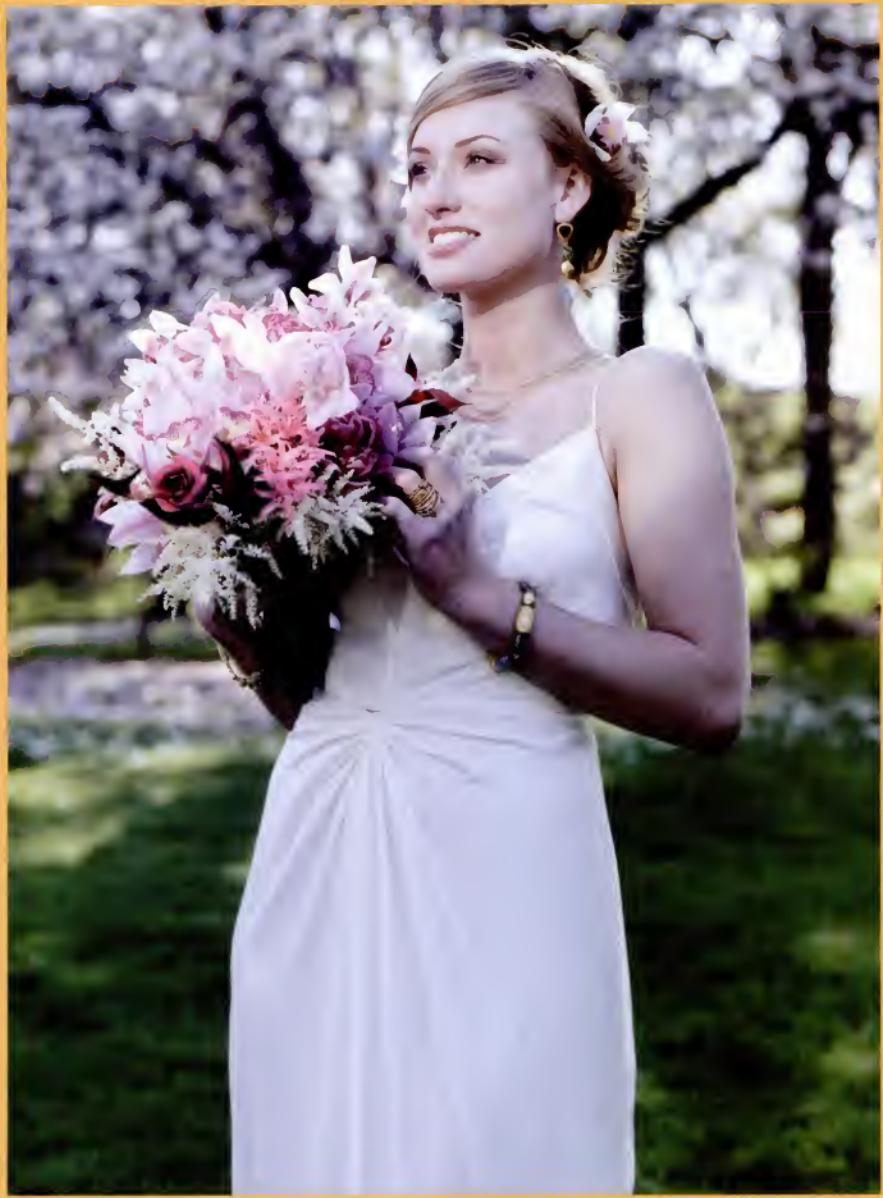










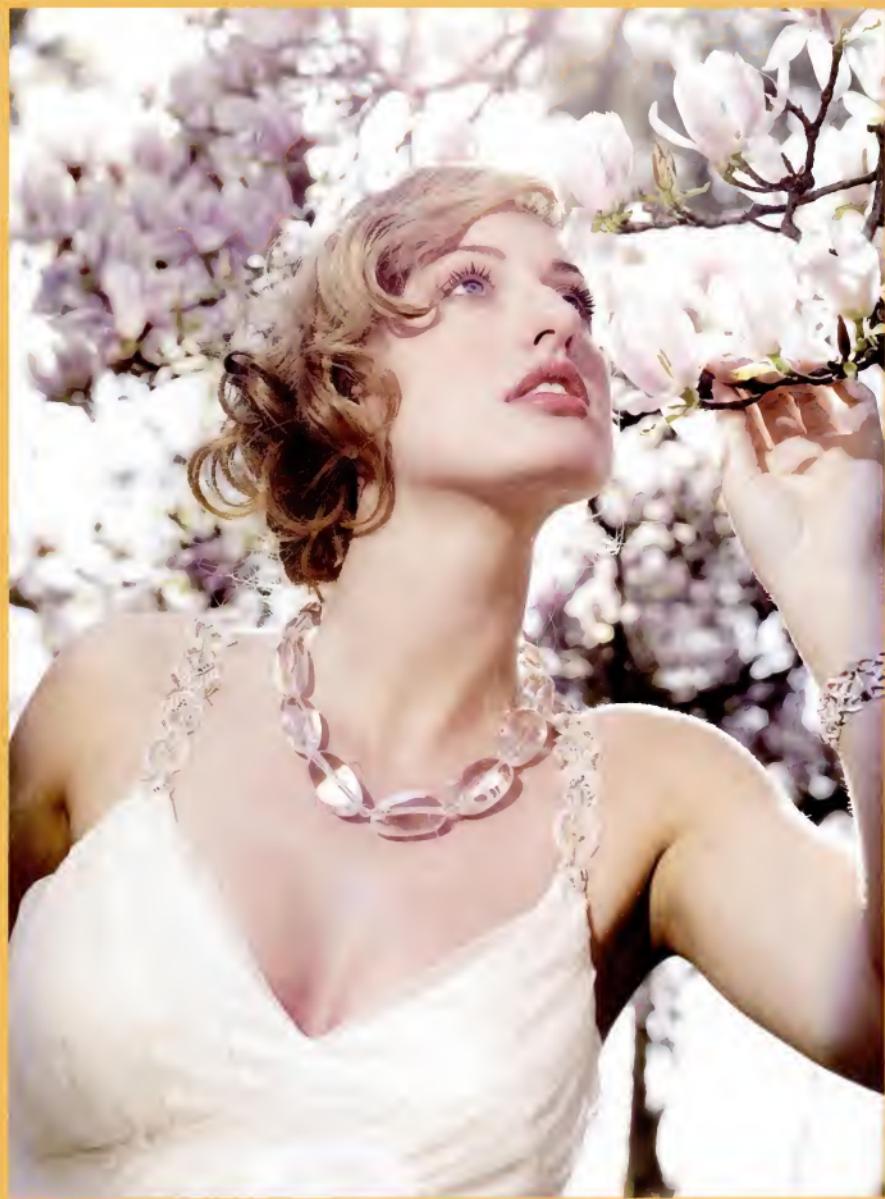














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**photographs** ryan kurtz

**styling** kate gallion

**makeup** kendall stolz

**hair stylist** vivian moore, Mitchell's Salon & Day Spa

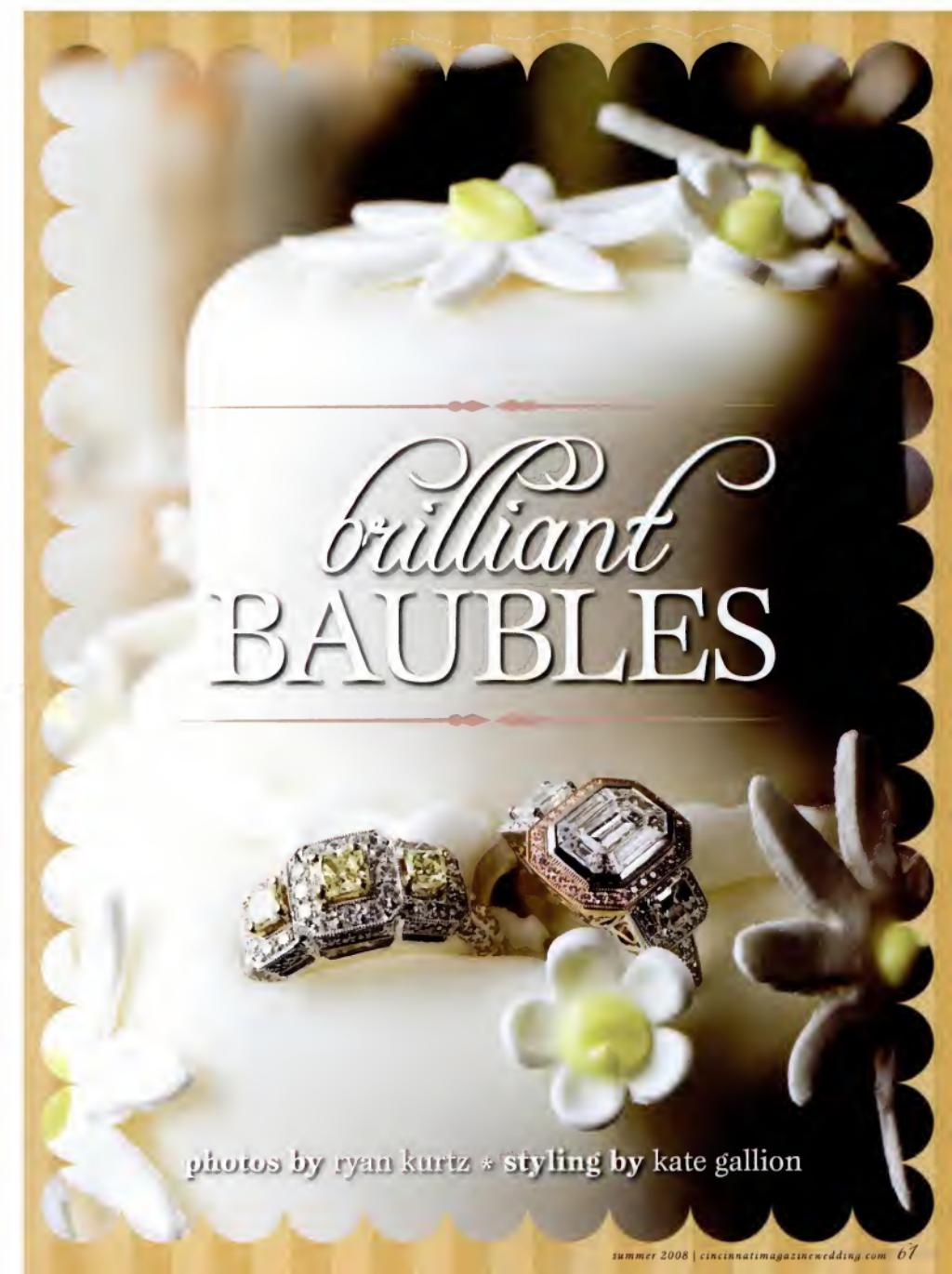
**models** blair, courtney, laura, lauren, liza, olivia  
all (except lauren) courtesy of Wings Model Management

**shot on location at** Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza









# *Brilliant* BAUBLES



photos by ryan kurtz \* styling by kate gallion





#### PAGE 61 (from left)

Three-stone, fancy-yellow diamond ring in 18k white gold, \$7,350; and 18k white and rose gold diamond ring by Simon G., \$12,320; both from Yeiton's Fine Jewelry. Cake courtesy of Orchids at Palm Court—Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.

#### OPPOSITE PAGE

Tacori square setting ring, \$3,990 (center stone priced separately), from Rogers Jewelers. Green enamel ring holder, \$128, from One in a Million.

#### THIS PAGE (clockwise from left)

Multicolor South Sea cultured and freshwater cultured pearls with 14k gold clasp, \$8,800, from James Free Jewelers. Oysters courtesy of Orchids at Palm Court—Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. Coin pearl "Shaman" necklace by Stella Sarmiento, \$800, from One in a Million. White and yellow gold (18k) diamond necklace with five light yellow diamonds (5.67 total weight), pave fancy yellow diamonds (.65 carat) and round diamond (4.77 total weight), \$54,000, from James Free Jewelers.

All images photographed at Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.



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# Blue Skies

*Channel 12 meteorologist Michelle Boutillette couldn't have predicted a lovelier wedding day.*

---

In late August of 2007, Michelle Boutillette was keeping a closer-than-usual eye on the weather. As a meteorologist and weather anchor for WKRC-TV, she was accustomed to forecasting warm fronts, cool fronts, showers and sleet. But this time Michelle's concern wasn't professional; it was personal. She and her fiancé Jamie Hudgens had scheduled their wedding for Sept. 1.

Labor Day weekends in Cincinnati are notoriously hot and humid. On the other hand, Cincinnati weather is notoriously erratic. Would Jamie be shivering in his tux? Would the wedding party be dodging hailstones, hopscotching across mud puddles—or worse, shivering in a 40-degree pre-winter temperature drop? Who knew? Even Michelle couldn't be certain. She kept watching the skies.

Long before earning her degree at Pennsylvania State University, long before having been urged by chief meteorologist Tim Hedrick to apply for the opening at Channel 12, Michelle was fascinated by weather. In one of life's ironic twists, she recalls being terrified as a small child by thunder and lightning. "I always wanted to know when it was

arriving, what it would do—and most importantly, how soon it would be over," she laughs.

Now, as a professional weather forecaster, Michelle often visits schools to kick off weather units and to instruct on subjects like weather safety. Students are permitted to ask any questions they wish. A common area of concern: Thunder and lightning, of course.

Which is always a possibility in Cincinnati, regardless of the season. So on the muggy, oppressive afternoon of Aug. 31, Michelle was feeling uneasy. Would her wedding day bring any cool breezes—or just more of the same?

She'd met Jamie, a business development manager, at a downtown Cincinnati bar in the spring of 2005—a girls' night out. Michelle was still new to the city; she'd moved here from Lubbock, Texas, where she worked for CBS affiliate KLHK, when she accepted the position at WKRC in July of 2004.

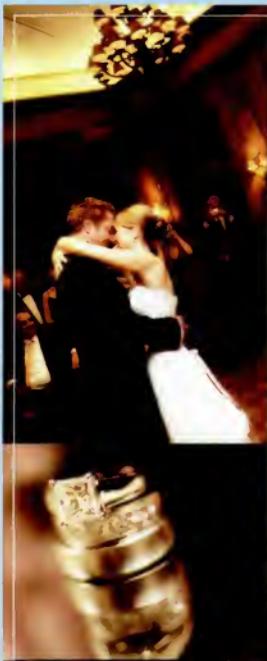
Jamie and his friend invited Michelle and her friend to play some pool. Jamie paired up with the friend, leaving Michelle with the other guy. She shrugged, chalkling it up to her abysmal cue skills. Only later would she learn that Jamie had been peppering the girlfriend with questions about Michelle. Eventually he approached her, and they



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by Coleen Armstrong • photos by Bluebird Photography

---



chatted companionably for the rest of the evening. Jamie phoned the following day, thereby earning serious points for promptness, Michelle says. They talked for an additional three solid hours. "It was so easy," she marvels. "No pauses or awkward moments."

In the fall of 2006, after dating for a year and a half, the two took a vacation to Hilton Head, S.C. Jamie's primary mission, he told her, was to schedule some great golf. Again, Michelle shrugged. She didn't play golf herself, but she was happy to go along and drive the cart.

One evening, Jamie suggested a pre-dinner walk on the beach. Michelle was wearing high heels, stumbling in the sand, but was still touched by Jamie's romantic flare. Suddenly he stopped and knelt down, extending a small box. Michelle shakes her head when she remembers that she didn't even see the ring until it was on her finger—she was staring straight into Jamie's eyes. His earlier dart back inside their cottage, ostensibly to retrieve a forgotten wallet, she realized, was really to pocket her ring. Such a beautiful evening seemed too perfect to pass up.

The wedding, they decided, would be elegant but low-key, with only 110 guests. Finding the right vendors involved a simple six-degrees-of-separation style of networking. When Michelle ordered her invitations at Poème in Hyde Park, she asked for suggestions in other areas as well. Each vendor she contacted offered additional recommendations. And so on. Everything seemed to fall neatly into place.

Because so many guests were from out of state, Michelle and Jamie wanted to ensure their guests' visits to Cincinnati would be as stress-free as possible. They booked everyone at the same hotel, the downtown Hyatt Regency on Fifth Street, and then arranged for a shuttle to transport everyone to St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Oakley for the ceremony, followed by the Kenwood Country Club for the reception. There were also two separate

shuttles, one early and one late, from the reception back to the hotel.

Michelle and Jamie chose downtown to give everyone a chance to experience the city's energy and vitality without the hassle of using rental cars. Gift bags provided maps, a list of favorite restaurants and bars within walking distance, cool shopping destinations and other points of interest.

"My college friends went to the bar I mentioned and had a great time," Michelle says. "It was fun to hear about the ways people used the information. They'd say, 'Oh, we went to Palomino's, and it was wonderful!'"

As was the small, intimate reception—where, instead of a traditional toast to the bride and groom, Michelle's sister Jen and her best friend Lizzie did a tribute to a blast-from-the-past talent show entry the three had performed together back in the 1980s. The song was "True Blue," an early Madonna hit, complete with choreography and head rags. It was the most delightful surprise of the evening,

Michelle says, something she couldn't possibly have forecasted.

Ditto, the weather. When she'd arisen on the morning of Sept. 1, she'd hurried outside to fetch the newspaper—and then looked around in disbelief. The previous day's stifling humidity was gone. It was a sunny, gorgeous, cool and comfortable 80 degrees—nothing but blue skies. Quite simply, the day was a meteorologist's dream. **CW**

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE?

*For a complete list of the vendors who helped Michelle Boutilllette keep the dark clouds away from her summer wedding, visit [www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com](http://www.cincinnatimagazinewedding.com)*

Ceremony: St. Cecilia Catholic Church

Reception: Kenwood Country Club

Florist: Mount Lookout Sprouts

Photographer: Bluebird Photography

Bridal Gown: Maggie Sottero from Bridal and Formal



# just married

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AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS THAT CAPTURED THESE LIFELONG MEMORIES

Elana Friedman  
& Andre Carnevale



As a college student studying in Knoxville, Tenn., Elana Friedman had no idea that she would find love during a visit home to Cincinnati. After meeting at a mutual friend's party in Northern Kentucky, Elana and fellow Cincinnatian Andre Carnevale threw a celebration of their own: They were married on July 7, 2007.

The Reading couple held their event at the Manor House Banquet and Conference Center in Mason, with a ceremony and reception that gracefully combined Jewish and Catholic traditions.

**Photographer:** Christopher Lowry Photography

**Gown:** Maggie Sottero,  
Bridal & Formal

**Flowers:** arrangements by Jones the Florist





## Shaedyn Cousino & Alexander Bogle



When Shaedyn Cousino attended her cousin's wedding in July 2005 in Newport, R.I., she had no idea she would meet her own special someone. In stepped two friends—Shaedyn's aunt and Alexander's mother—who cooked up some matchmaking at the rehearsal dinner. The plan paid off, with Shaedyn and Alexander tying the knot at Armstrong Chapel in Indian Hill on Aug. 25, 2007.

Shaedyn and Alexander had a traditional Navy wedding with a New England twist to commemorate where they met—they exited the church through an arch of boat oars.

**Cake:** The Chef's Kitchen Cakery

**Event Planner:** Dora Manuel,  
Viva Bella Events

**Flowers:** Michael Bourke  
for arrangements by Jones the Florist  
**Gown:** Monique Lhuillier  
**Photography:** Michael Bambino & Co.



## Tamia Collins & De'Juan McGuire



Tamia Collins and De'Juan McGuire looked to their roots when planning their October 13 wedding. A red color palette showed the couple's affection for the University of Cincinnati, De'Juan's alma mater, and Indiana University, where Tamia studied African-American history and culture. The couple chose The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center as a backdrop for their reception, which included a performance of traditional African dance. The couple currently resides in Mason.

**Cake:** The Chef's Kitchen Cakery

**Event Planner:** Amber Whitford,  
Signature Event Planners

**Flowers:** arrangements by Jones the Florist

**Gown:** Jasmine Couture

**Photography:** Broadway Photography

**Stationery:** Letter Heads, Ltd.



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Lauren Klingenberg &  
Dennis Brent Walker



Lauren met Brent when she took a job working the front desk at Zicka Walker Homes, where Brent is a homebuilder. "Brent is an incredibly shy guy when it comes to girls," Lauren recalls. "During the year I worked there he said maybe five words to me." Brent eventually worked up the courage to ask Lauren out on a date, and proposed to her two years later in New York City.

Lauren's childhood dream of being married at St. Mary's Basilica came true on Sept. 22, 2007, with a reception at historic Music Hall, including entertainment by Off the Hook.

Cake: Maribelle Cakery Cincinnati

Flowers: Yellow Canary

Gown: Pronovias

Photography: David A. Ziser Photography





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## Patti Jo Deffinger & Eric Hinerman



A fairy-tale wedding seemed out of the question for Patti Jo and Eric. With Eric in school and Patti Jo knee-deep in student loans, the couple was planning a wedding on a shoestring budget. Then they hit the jackpot as winners of Q102's \$50,000 Wedding Giveaway. No expense was spared for their harvest-themed Oct. 20 nuptials. "It was a dream come true!" says Patti Jo. Although the couple received VIP treatment, they kept their reception, held at The Madison, low key through personal touches like Eric's hand-carved pumpkin lantern centerpieces and monogrammed flip-flop favors.

**Flowers:** Courtenay Lambert Florals, Weddings and Events

**Gown:** Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique

**Photography:** Bluebird Photography



## Katie Case & Matt Stephenson



During her August 2007 wedding, Katie Case was smiling from ear-to-ear when her new husband, Matt Stephenson, surprised her with his rendition of "Grow Old with You," a song made famous by Adam Sandler and his romantic comedy, "The Wedding Singer." The high school sweethearts' wedding celebration at Ault Park was marked by other personalized touches including a Sno-Cone truck, the groom's favorite treat. The couple currently resides in Erlanger.

**Flowers:** Secret Garden

**Gown:** Essence of Australia,

Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique

**Photographer:** Portinger Photography





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A collage of various wedding-related photographs and logos. It includes a bride standing by a window, a multi-tiered wedding cake with flowers, a close-up of a hand holding a bouquet, a couple looking up together, and a woman in a wedding dress walking down a staircase. The collage also features the logo for Katie Woodring Photography, which includes a stylized leaf or flower graphic.

## Meagan Birkenshaw & Mark Guenther



The first time Meagan and Mark met it wasn't exactly love at first sight. In fact, it was more like a standoff. Meagan was looking to share a house with several guy friends after transferring to Miami University, but Mark wasn't ready to give up his bachelor pad.

Despite the difference of opinion, they became friends—and later a couple. Mark and Meagan Guenther were married on June 23, 2007, at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral followed by a reception at The Westin Cincinnati.

**Flowers:** Robin Wood Flowers

**Gown:** Amsale, Bridal & Formal

**Photography:** Cindy Wagner, Wagner Photographics

**Event Planner:** Tiesha Frazier, Creative Affairs



## Kelley Dolan & Shawn Fiddler



When Shawn Fiddler's father played matchmaker, it was an obvious case of father knows best. Shawn's dad introduced him to Kelley Dolan in July 2006 and just more than a year later on Sept. 8, 2007, the pair said "I do" in a beautiful outdoor ceremony and reception in Warsaw, Ky. Set against rolling Kentucky hills, the reception featured a canoe brimming with bottles of beverages for guests to enjoy.

**Flowers:** Leaf & Petal

**Gown:** Mori Lee by Madeline Gardner

**Photography:** Katie Woodring Photography





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Marie Durchholz  
& Evan DeAngelis



Marie and Evan think part of being in love means being able to laugh at life's funny moments. "We are so lucky in love, but attribute much of that to the laughter we share," says Marie, who married Evan on Aug. 31, 2007 at the St. Rose Church on Eastern Avenue. In fact, the couple believe so much in the power of a laugh, they built their reception around it. With a theme of "Love and Laughter in the City," the couple, their family and friends celebrated at The Bell Event Centre at The Verdin Bell and Clock Museum. To keep their guests laughing, the Hyde Park couple gave out cute and funky favors including faux mustaches and custom buttons.

**Photographer:** StephCarson Photography

**Gown:** Essence of Australia, Donna Salyers'

Fabulous-Bridal Boutique

**Flowers:** Cincinnati Urban Floral Design



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Carolina Herrera



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photos by thomas kletecka



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Kenneth Pool

Ysa Makino

SHEER & FLOWING

DRESSES WITH JACKETS

SHORT DRESSES



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Jenny Packham



Monique Lhuillier



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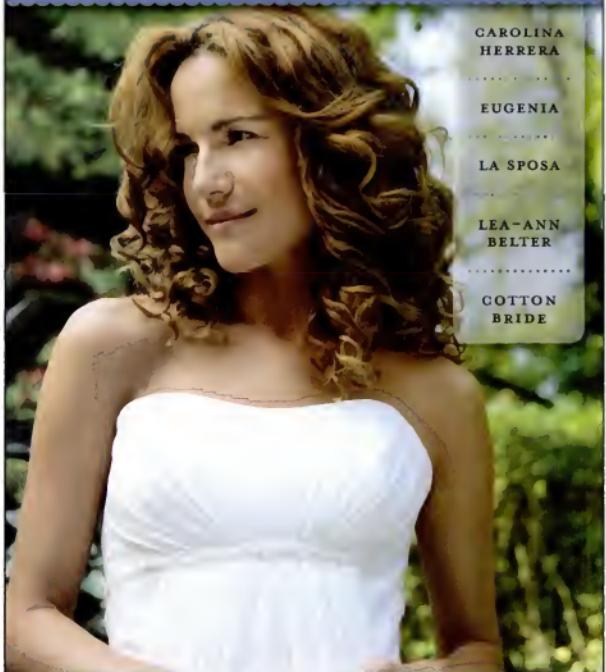
Carolina Herrera

## dresses with jackets



Carolina Herrera

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{ cw | flowers }



# flowers 101

FIVE LOCAL FLORAL DESIGNERS DISH ON  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BLOOMS

by Michelle Taute

## MEET THE PANEL

**SUMMER WIEDENBEIN**  
Mariemont Florist, Mariemont

**KEVIN FORD**

Ford-Ellington Floral and Event Design, Fort Thomas

**ROBIN WOOD**

Robin Wood Flowers, Cincinnati

**CELESTE MACKAY**

Fassler Floral & Event Designers, Covington

**MIKE BOURKE**

arrangements by Jones the Florist, Cincinnati

**A**fter your dress, flowers make one of the most personal statements at your wedding. You've probably thought about what kind of bouquet you might carry or whether you'd like fresh flowers on top of the cake. But there are countless other details that go into bringing nature's beauty to your wedding. We tapped five of Cincinnati's best flower designers to walk you through all the most pressing issues.

**Q: If I just got engaged, when should I start thinking about flowers?**

**WIEDENBEIN:** It depends on the size of the wedding. If someone is planning a really large event with extensive designs, a year in advance is definitely suggested. If you



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are planning a small wedding, we have accommodated brides within a few weeks. I would say the average is probably six to nine months.

**Q:** What does a bride need to know before she starts calling florists?

**BOURKE:** Know the date and the place of the wedding and reception. And then the color that is most important to her.

**WIEDENBEIN:** Have your location because that helps guide us as far as what type of flowers you might want. It is helpful to have colors, but I have had plenty brides say, "Well, I am thinking between these three or four different kinds of palettes," and we can help them.

**WOOD:** I think it is good to know the color of the bridesmaids' dresses because that can be the starting point for the color scheme.

**Q:** How can a bride find the right florist? What questions should she ask?

**FORD:** It is really important to feel like you are being heard and not being preached to. Some designers are not very good at listening. If you do not feel like you are being heard, you should keep looking. Always feel comfortable bringing in images of bouquets that you like or weddings that you like. If you are a bride, never feel nervous about asking a question. If someone suggests something and it is not working for you, never be embarrassed to say, "That is not working for me. That is not what I am looking for." A good designer would want to know that.

**MACKEY:** Like the person you are going to work with. Have fun with them. Look at their shop. Go to some of their weddings. Just say, "When is the next wedding where you will be using some of the flowers that I am interested in?" Are you going to be the one who brings

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the bouquets to me? Are you going to be the one that helps to set up my wedding? Am I going to talk to you every time I want to make a change?

BOURKE: I might ask to look at the flowers in their cooler. That would give you an awfully large insight into: Are the flowers fresh? Do they have a wide selection? Are they interested in current trends?

**Q: How should a bride determine her budget for flowers?**

**BOURKE:** I have seen hot-dog weddings with huge floral budgets and then I've seen surf-and-turf dinners with a bud vase in the center. I think it has a lot to do with what flowers mean to the bride and her mother.

**WOOD:** Brides are all different. Some of them are flower people. Some want it to be visually incredible. For some, it is more important to have filet mignon. I do not think there is a specific budget. They have to figure out if they are really flower people.

**Q: If I'm on a tight budget, how can I stretch the money I have for flowers?**

**WOOD:** Simplicity. You can do things sometimes with a single flower or blooming plants at the table. You do not have to have a million flowers in every centerpiece or every bouquet.

MACKEY: Rent the vases. You can go for a much bigger look if you are not buying all the vases. We are going to rent it for about one-third the cost it would be if you purchased it.

**BOURKE:** Reuse everything from the church. If you do a little bow with some greenery on the pew, make sure that's transferred over and dressed the cake table at the reception. Perhaps the flowers on the altar can be repurposed on the bar or on a gift table. The unity candle arrangement can frequently be reused as a centerpiece on the head table.

**Q:** How can I make sure I get the most impact from the flowers at my wedding?

**FORD:** You have to really describe what feeling you want to create. Then really trust [the designer's] opinion.

**WOOD:** I think that a good florist will help you get the most impact. I do not think there is any one particular rule. You have to look at the space and then you have to say, "What am I trying to do? Am I trying to be dramatic? Or pretty? Elegant? Is my taste more contemporary or old-fashioned?" One calla lily in a bud vase is not going to thrill a girl who has garden-y taste, but someone who has more contemporary taste might like it.

**Q:** Where are some places I can look for inspiration?

**WIEDENBEIN:** Go to the local bookstore, grab a cup of coffee, sit in a chair and look through all those great books. You can pull a lot of really good ideas. A lot of those books will show weddings that are unrealistic, because they are \$150,000+ weddings, but you can pull little aspects out of those to personalize your event.

**MACKEY:** Look at old photographs, maybe what your mother carried. Or bring something from your grandparents. I have done grandma and grandpa's wedding rings in a girl's bouquet. I have done rosaries in the bouquets. Grandma and grandpa are gone, but they want to have them as part of their ceremony.

**Q:** Are there any new styles or trends in wedding flowers you're excited about?

**MACKEY:** We do an awful lot of jewels in the bouquets. Like rhinestones, solitaires, clear stones, gemstones. Ones that look like emeralds or rubies but are not real stones. We make the bouquet and then we insert the stones down into the bouquet. We also do monograms,



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## CW | flowers

and those are popular for the bridesmaids. Each one carries her own initial. It is a Swarovski crystal initial.

### Q: Do you see a few common mistakes made with wedding flowers?

FORD: There is a season for a few flowers. If [the designer] is steering you away from something, trust that they know it is not going to work. I had a bride who had a picture of a wedding bouquet that was all stephanotis. Her dream was to carry that, but her wedding was in July. I said, "I really am afraid for you to have to do that." She was having pictures taken beforehand, and so it was going to be a long day for the flowers. I just knew that there would be issues. She found a designer who said, "Oh yeah, that will be no problem at all." I found out that the bouquet did not make it through the day. I felt really sad for this bride, because I knew how important this day was for her.

### Q: What's most important to keep in mind about my bouquet?

BOURKE: I think the most important thing about your bouquet is that you absolutely love it. It will be featured in nearly every photo from your wedding. You need to have a comfort level

carrying it down the aisle. Whether it's small and sassy or long and elegant, I think it really is important that it be the bouquet you feel most comfortable with.

FORD: Bring a picture in of the dress as soon as you have one. Then the bouquet can be made to complement the dress. Brides have very different thoughts on bouquet size. Some brides want a huge bouquet. I tend to like a bouquet that matches the size of the bride and her gown.

### Q: Do the flowers need to match the style of location?

WIEDENBEIN: I do think it is really good to play into your environment instead of fighting it. I see that happen a lot. Be aware of that when you are picking a location. If you are planning on having blue and pink, is that going to work with the location's hunter-green chairs and wallpaper?

### Q: What's most important to keep in mind about the actual day of the wedding?

WIEDENBEIN: If you are having photographs taken prior to your wedding, coordinate with your florist to make sure those flowers are there at that time. Somebody will come in and

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# seasonal favorites

say, "Oh, my ceremony is set to start at five." Traditionally, your flowers will get there about one hour before the ceremony.

## Q: What about delivery and service on the wedding day?

WOOD: You have to ask the florist. We always set up everything personally, and we do not leave until it is perfect. There are other people who just send them on a truck and plop and drop, but we never do that. We know that the whole look is really important.

FORD: A lot of brides think, "Oh the florist is going to break the wedding down afterwards and pick up their own rental equipment." Some do not. Or who is going to be setting up the reception? Say your ceremony is in the same room as the reception. Is the florist going to be there to move the flowers to the tables? Are they going to expect the venue to do that? If they want your wedding, they have to give you the service you require.

CW

Thanks to a growing import market, today's bride-to-be can choose virtually any flowers she likes for her wedding. But floral experts say some blossoms lend themselves especially well to summer weddings.

In addition to the ever-popular roses, lilies and stephanotis, the following flowers and plants are ideal for spring and summer weddings:

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{cw | cakes}



# piece of cake

LOCAL CAKE DESIGNERS ANSWER YOUR MOST  
PRESSING CONFECTIONARY QUESTIONS

by jessica r. brown

**W**hether it is a basket-weave design, topped with icing flowers or sleekly covered in fondant, your wedding cake is probably the most important confectionary purchase you will ever make. To help you in your search, we've asked a panel of bakers some of the most pressing cake questions. Here's our panel's best advice:

## MEET THE PANEL

### LARRY BROWN

owner, Maribelle Cakery Cincinnati, Reading

### BARB HARVEY

owner, IncrEdible Endings, Florence

### ELIZABETH ENGLAND

owner, The Chef's Kitchen Cakery, Madeira

### SHARON BUTLER

co-owner, The Bonbonerie, O'Bryonville

**Q: What are the top three things that a bride should think about when choosing a baker?**

**BROWN:** First, integrity; Choose a baker who is affiliated with the wedding industry in a professional capacity. They should be members of the local ABC (Association of Bridal Consultants) or ISIS (the organization of Certified Special Events Professionals) or some other professional organization. Second, longevity; Choose a cakery with a long history of excellence and years of experience. Third, professionalism; Avoid people who bake out of their homes. Real bakeries are inspected regularly by the Board of Health and kept to a very high standard of cleanliness.

**HARVEY:** First, the designer should be able to make the look of the cake reflect the bride and groom and the feel of the wedding. Second, the cake is the final course of your dinner and should be delicious, something that your

guesrs will enjoy. Third, your baker needs to be someone that you are able to communicate your ideas to and that is willing to listen and work with you.

**ENGLAND:** Reputation of client service, baker's ability to match their cake designs to the overall style and tastes of the wedding party and taste, taste, taste.

**Q: How far in advance does a bride need to book her wedding cake designer?**

**BUTLER:** It really depends on the season they want to get married in. We've made cakes with two weeks notice in the off seasons and have been fully booked six months out in the months of May, June, September and October.

**ENGLAND:** As soon as the location and reception time is decided, the specifics can be determined closer to the event, but to assure the designers' availability the sooner, the better.

**Q: How many bakers do you recommend a bride interview before making her selection?**

**BUTLER:** If she knows nothing about wedding cakes or is in a new town, I would say three, to compare price, taste and service.

**ENGLAND:** At least two, but more than four seems a bit silly, unless you're just in it for the free cake.

**Q: Where can a bride find inspiration for her cake design?**

**BUTLER:** Bride magazines are loaded with pictures these days and, of course, on the Internet, but these pictures need to be reviewed realistically. Many are made specifically for a photo shoot and would be extremely challenging to an average bakery and exorbitant in price.

**HARVEY:** Inspiration for your wedding cake can come from anywhere, including your dress, your theme, your china, the season, your honeymoon, etc.

**ENGLAND:** Inspiration comes from anything and everything that is pleasing in the whole world—lyrics of songs to the great master painters to, honestly, I'm not kidding, lingerie from Victoria's Secret. I've incorporated private messages of love and symbols that only those "in-the-know" could decipher.

**Q: What advice do you have about budget?**

**BROWN:** In the grand scheme of things, the cake is the least expensive thing at your reception. It only costs a few hundred dollars more to do the best cake, whereas the best gown or the

best flowers or the best catering will cost thousands of dollars more. So, if you're on a budget, the first thing to consider spending a little more on is the cake.

**BUTLER:** Look realistically at how many people are really going to be eating your cake. When do you plan to eat it? Is it to be served as dessert with a sit-down dinner or later in the evening with coffee? Is your affair a hors d'oeuvre-type party? If so, you may need less cake as many people drink and snack on savory items more. Consider yourself at weddings, and ask yourself if you were interested in eating cake at different times of the day.

**Q: What are the current trends in cakes?**

**BROWN:** Understated and elegant. Mad-hatter cakes, loud colors and cute figurines on the top are so '80s! Today's bride wants the cake to reflect her gown and everything else about her wedding—simple, elegant and breathtakingly beautiful.

Cake jewelry is very hot right now. A very simple cake with almost no detail, each tier wrapped with a real ribbon in a subdued color with one, small spectacular piece of jewelry—very cutting edge.

**HARVEY:** Most of my customers are looking for cakes that are unique, different and designed for them. Color is an important part, done often with flowers or ribbons. Stacked cakes are the big trend now.

**BUTLER:** Using much more color in the backgrounds and ribbons. There is a slight return to more elaborate designs, but simple and elegant are still the most popular styles.

**Q: How can a bride get the most impact out of her cake at the wedding?**

**BROWN:** The cake should look rather plain from across the room. When your guests get closer to it, a beautiful cake should take their breath away. Finally, when they taste it, it should knock their socks off. Taste and smell are the strongest memories. Make your reception one they will remember!

**BUTLER:** Make sure it is located in an area that has traffic, and pay attention to the scale of the room. High ceilings require separated layers or a raised base to be noticed.

**HARVEY:** The wedding cake should be the centerpiece of the reception, so it needs to be positioned in the room so everyone sees it when they enter the hall. The cake also needs to be spotlighted (professionally). The table around the cake needs to be decorated to finish the cake.



# the ABCs of wedding stationery

DISCOVER WHEN TO SEND WHAT AND TO WHOM

by jessica noll

**O**f all the seemingly endless decisions one must make in planning a wedding, stationery may well be the one that presents the widest range of options through which a bride must sort and sift. Plus, it's often one of the items that must be selected first, well, next to picking a husband-to-be, of course.

And when should you start looking at ideas and all the possibilities for your wedding stationery? As soon as

you get engaged, says Kristen Folzenlogen, co-owner of Letter Heads, Ltd. and Poème.

## We're engaged...so save the date!

Before you start to plan a single moment of your wedding, you should let the entire world know that you're the lucky gal who just got engaged, right? Probably not these days, says Mary Hopple, owner of M. Hopple & Co. "We don't often have customers requesting engagement

announcements," she says. "Your family and good friends already know, and many people are engaged for one or two years."

Plus, as Margot Madison, Margot Madison Stationery, points out, you may not immediately know to whom you should send announcements. "I rarely do [engagement announcements]. A lot of brides don't have guest lists finalized until right before the invitations go out," Madison says.

But, as soon as you know where and when you will wed, and who you want there, send out a save-the-date card, especially to those who may be coming in from out of town. If your wedding will be a destination wedding, be sure to indicate that on the cards, as guests will need adequate time to prepare their travel plans.

Generally save-the-dates should be sent out between six to eight months from the wedding date. They should include who you are, the date of the wedding, the location of the wedding, as well as accommodation/reservation information, again, especially for your out-of-towners.

To ensure your save-the-date card doesn't get lost in the snail-mail shuffle, Folzenlogen offers these two tips: Don't send your save-the-date notice during the holidays, but do send your save-the-date cards during the same calendar year as your wedding, if possible. Why? Many people still use a print calendar on which to mark events. If you send your save-the-date card in 2008, but the wedding is in 2009, your best friend's mother's cousin may forget to mark it on her 2009 calendar when she gets one.

**You're invited...six to eight weeks from now**  
 How do you invite people to the best day of your life? Start with an invitation that includes enclosure cards. Enclosures tell your guest where they're going, what time they should be there, where they can stay the night, and, in the form of an RSVP, give guests a way to let you

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know if they will be attending your event. It's 2008, so you can also give your guests the choice of responding to your invitation via the Web. "We have a lot of people including reception information on the invitation," Madison says. "Brides, 80 percent of the time, use a reply postcard because it saves on postage. Some brides are choosing to put directions, extra parties, etc., on a Web site, so they don't have to include inserts."

Send your invitations out six to eight weeks ahead of time, or earlier if you opt not to have save-the-date cards.

### Here comes the bride

A wedding program is your guest's guide to the wedding, their *Playbill*, if you will. It tells them who is in the wedding, what will happen at the ceremony, including songs, a memorial or tribute to loved ones who cannot be with you that day, poems and scriptures, as well as a thoughtful note to your guests, thanking them for sharing in your day. It's a nice touch, if you can swing it.

If you decide on having a program for your guests, Hopple says to think about your environment. If you're in a church, for example, you will probably be just fine with a normal booklet or folded pieces of paper. If, however, you are having

an outdoor wedding, especially during a particularly windy season, consider a one-piece program. This way, Hopple says, you won't have guests chasing after pages during a pivotal moment of the ceremony.

### How and where to order

Talk to your friends and family and find out which stationers they've had good experiences with, Hopple says. Then visit the stationer and see how you're treated.

Many stationery stores offer both designs and custom-made options, along with the tools to do it yourself. Folzenlogen, however, warns against taking on such a huge task for such a major occasion. "[Stationery] is not a place to do it yourself," she says. "It is very time consuming and not as easy as it may seem."

Folzenlogen adds that the bride and groom should look for a designer who advises the couple beyond which product to pick. A good stationer, she says, helps with the wording, the size, shape, addressing and the overall look and feel of the invitation. "They shouldn't sell you a product; they should sell you a service."

When on the great search for your wedding stationery provider, should you resort to your trusty computer? Probably not. "Paper is a hands-on product. The color could be different

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in person, and it is really important to have a physical proof, rather than a digital image," Madison says.

"It's really iffy, not seeing a sample," Hopple adds. "You can't see the size, or feel it. You have no scale and no sense of how big or small it is."

## Making memories last

So how do you make your stationery memorable? Make it personal, reflecting who you are and your unique style. "Order in the color family of the clothes you wear—it's you," Hopple says that this way, when your guests receive their invitation, they immediately associate the colors and themes with you.

You can also incorporate subtle previews to set the tone for the actual event. For example, Hopple recalls a summer wedding in which the bridesmaids were wearing light yellow. The bride sent out invites with daisies on them, thus coordinating her white dress and the bridesmaids' yellow dresses with the season and the invitations.

"By itself it was pretty, but together as a package, it was memorable," Hopple says.

Folzenlogen once scanned a portion of a bride's dress, then placed the pattern on the stationery. The size and 'wow factor' can also get your invitation noticed by your guests, as they

slip it out of their mailbox. Boxes and creative presentations will make your invitation stand out as well. "They're not just envelopes anymore," says Folzenlogen.

Three-dimensional cards are also making a splash in the stationery world, not to mention adding more depth. With layers of color, print, designs and textures, a bride can make her invite multidimensional to the eye and touch with raised, mounted cards.

Hot trends? Madison says pink and orange, punched-up colors and kelly green are big, as are yellow and gray or yellow and black. "There are also some great papers now like sparkly cardstock and Japanese hand-screened prints. And, bold and bright colors are used for every season now. For winter, subtle, pretty colors like pewter. For autumn, eggplant and green."

Plus, don't overlook the timeless tradition of gratitude. Thank you cards are as big of a stationery must-have as the invites themselves, yet they are increasingly overlooked.

"[Thank you notes] are very important. They don't have to be on spectacular stationery, but they always should be included. We can't lose all decorum today," Madison says.

And Hopple adds that brides should not be tempted to use e-mail in place of a hand-written thank you note. "People really want notes for special things."

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# party perfect

TOP 10 TIPS FOR RECEPTION BLISS

by sue goldberg

**C**hoices! You've already made the biggest choice of your life—you've picked the person that for better or for worse will help you learn about trust, respect, intimacy and honesty. That's true love—and that's something to celebrate! So now that you've decided to share that happiness with 50, 100, maybe 200 (or more!) of your closest friends and family, you'll need a plan. Advice from local event coordinators will guide you through the top 10 things you need to consider when planning your reception.

## 1. Start with a budget

Every expert agrees: it's all about the budget. Every other choice, from the number of guests to the type of meal, depends on that bottom line. Cincinnati USA wedding reception packages and itemized

costs may range anywhere from \$22 per person for a sumptuous buffet in a spacious hall to \$100 or more per guest for a peak-season, highly formal affair in a sought-after hotspot. So do you want the basics in a relaxed atmosphere? Do you need to make a more formal statement? Pick a point along that continuum and plan from there.

"Your average could be \$22 just for the meal, and up to \$35 or \$40 by the time you get a lot of your side items," notes Ray Reuss, owner of The Woodlands in Cleves, where the secluded 27-acre spread is a huge draw. "I'd say budget is more important than anything."

## 2. Ask for details

You've crunched the numbers. Now it's time to pop the really big question: What's included?



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One of the costliest items of the reception might be the bar. Jo Jordan, catering sales manager at the Vernon Manor Hotel, cautions couples to do their homework and ask: "Is it strictly bar packages, or are they flexible with bar pricing? Reception locations often have specific 'tiered' packages for alcoholic beverages. For example, one tier might be beer and soft drinks, another might add wine and mixed drinks. If the location will allow it, specific beverages 'upon consumption' will save you money," she notes.

Stacey Densler, private event director at The Bankers Club at the Fifth Third Center ticks off a list of site-specifics: "Capacity—what is the max seating the venue can hold comfortably? ... What is included in the venue rental? Linens, tables, chairs, china, etc?"

Remember that no question is too small. Even a seasoned veteran can get blindsided. Terrol Lieberum, director of sales and marketing at the new Sheraton Airport planned a special cruise for her parents' 50th wedding anniversary and assumed that the yacht's event coordinators would use the same fine

# TRADE SECRETS

If I had to pick one thing not to cut back on, it would be the reception. Having the right entertainment at the right venue with great food is of the utmost importance.

—Dawn Dagenbach,  
*Details by Dawn, LLC.*

That latest trend is to have a photo booth. To go along with the photo booth, some brides and grooms are providing props for guests to wear when they get their picture taken.

—Joyce Smith,  
*Weddings Unlimited, Inc.*

They (guests) remember things that make it different. We did a wedding for a couple where they were both actors. So their centerpieces were made from props. Their favors were microwave popcorn with their name and wedding date on it.

—Brigid Horne-Nestor,  
*i-do Weddings & Events*

Another idea is to break up the scenery if possible, have the cocktail hour in one room, then move to another room for dinner and yet another room for dancing.

—Heidi Pasqualetti, *I Thee Wed*

One way to make your guests feel welcome and special is to have a personal message at each table setting.

—Dora Manuel, *Viva Bella Events*

Whether it is a personal note waiting for them in their hotel room, individual place cards or personalized favors, when [guests] see something that was created just for them, then they know they would have been missed if they hadn't been there.

—Danielle Werner, *Souvé*

Always remember that you get what you pay for, most of the time this holds true. I believe a good meal plays a big part of the celebration; no one wants a bad meal.

—Karen Frankman, *Always & Forever Wedding Service, LLC.*

# Cheers!

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china, linens and formal table settings that she was accustomed to offering at her establishment. The surprise came when plasticware appeared at food stations and bread plates were nonexistent at the place settings.

"I was just cringing in my boots," Lieberum recalls. "Even a professional like myself can get in trouble. I was working with a floating facility, which I wasn't used to. They have different storage than a land facility, and I didn't think of that—and I've been in the business since '84! ... Really, you can't assume. You're just going to have to ask a lot of basic questions."

### 3. Be clear on policies

Asking basic questions will also bring to light each venue's policies. Financial deposits and payment schedules, food and beverage minimums, preferred vendor lists, gratuities, setup time limits and décor restrictions are some of the areas you'll need to explore. Will your 15 tables need a total of one hour to set up or will it take 30 minutes per table for

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elaborate centerpieces? If your setup needs more than two hours, it may mean hefty additional charges. (Think \$1,000 or more at some sites.)

Events that take place at museums or aquariums may restrict the use of confetti, glitter, helium balloons or candles. After all, as one planner noted, when the site opens to the public on Monday morning, glitter sparkling from the cracks of the floor tiles and helium balloons drifting along a 30-foot high ceiling might detract from their mission. But alternative venues offer the added distinction of fine art, noteworthy architecture and significant cultural enlightenment with private tours. So just ask the question: glitter on my centerpieces or a Winslow Homer on my wall? An easy trade-off for some.

Food and beverage minimums guarantee the facility that you will pay an agreed-upon price, even if a percentage of your RSVPs turn out to be regrets. "I would say almost any facility would have a minimum," says Marsha Burton, director of sales and marketing at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland. "Sometimes that scares a bride away." But, Burton notes, if they actually have the opportunity to sit down with the event planner, and find out what's included in the package, brides often discover that what at first seemed overwhelming, is less so when all the details and amenities offered are outlined and understood.

"One of the other things to consider when choosing your reception site is will they allow you to use outside vendors," adds Julie Clayton, director of sales at The Newport Aquarium. Preferred vendor lists may mean that only select vendors are allowed on site, or have an exclusive contract with the facility. Difficulties arise when a bride has a favorite bakery, for instance, and then discovers that her choice isn't on the list.

And, all the experts say, don't forget to ask about the necessary payment arrangements. Go over the payment schedule and look at the amount needed for a deposit, which may be up to \$500-\$1,000 in advance.

"Most places do require you to pay [the remainder] anywhere from 30 days to 3-4 days [before the reception]," Lieberum says. Make a note if the deposit is nonrefundable or if there is a graduated timeframe that allows a portion of the deposit to be recovered, if the event needs to be rescheduled or cancelled.

"The closer you get, usually the higher the cancellation policy and charges would be," Lieberum notes. "That's perfectly normal with most facilities."

Ask if the gratuity will be added to the final cost of the event or if it's left up to your discretion. An item that can range from 15-22 percent of your reception tab is no minor addition.



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### 4. Consider accessibility

"In some ways, choosing a reception site for some brides is kind of like buying a house," observes Roger Hollstegge, owner of destinys catering at Beckett Ridge Country Club. "It's location, location, location. Is it close to the church? Is it easy for their guests to find? Is it close to hotels if they have a lot of out-of-town guests? A lot of those things factor in for some brides."

Locating a reception outdoors expands the number of decisions that need to be made, and sometimes the expense. Providing "Plan B" tenting or an alternate indoor site in case of inclement weather is a must—unless you want your guests to remember the fun they had sloshing about in formal wear, high heels and mud. Cincinnati weather can be fickle, so consider the need for heating or cooling and side tent flaps to keep wind and temperatures from spoiling the fun. And don't forget about lighting nighttime events. Twinkle lights, chandeliers or lanterns are all options to make your outdoor event shine.

Kitty Paschall, manager of facility rentals for the Taft Museum of Art, is a pro when it comes to outdoor events—every reception includes an outside tent where guests, eat, drink and dance. With only one event booked per evening—as is the case at most local museums—it's basically a private view of the grounds and fine art collections.

If brides are intent on this, or any other downtown location, factor in the cost of parking. And don't forget that sports and other downtown events may affect the per-car price. Add in valet or shuttle service, if needed, and associated gratuities.

### 5. Find your style

Personal style is an important consideration. Ellen Ritter, events coordinator at Paul Brown Stadium, says it best: "I think their reception site needs to fit the personality of the bride and groom. Some want elegant, some want

## TRADE SECRETS

Choosing the cake may be one of the last items on your to-do list. Nevertheless, its importance cannot be underestimated. The photographer will take a lot of photos of this artistic piece. Your cake can tie together all the different elements of your wedding, emphasizing the theme of your event and allow you to make a lasting impression on your guests.

—Joyce Smith, *Weddings Unlimited*

Even though it is important to find a bakery that can give a cake flawless, breathtaking image, the way a cake tastes is equally important. People will remember the cake!

—Heidi Pasqualett, *I Thee Wed*

Mini cakes for each table in lieu of a large single wedding cake add a fun twist for guests and also add décor to the table. Ice cream and cupcake bars are also a popular treat for guests.

—Dora Manuel, *Viva Bella Events*

Use the top layer to serve your guests instead of saving in your freezer for your first anniversary—ask your baker to have a new top layer made for your anniversary...it tastes better anyway!

—Brigid Horne-Nestor,  
*i-do Weddings & Events*

Cakes that are topsy-turvy are very hot right now. You can also switch out layers on your cake. When you have one layer that is square, another layer round and another layer square, you can achieve a unique look.

—Andrea Christensen, *Elite Events*

Bigger isn't always better. Little more than half of your guests will eat cake. If you have a limited cake budget, choose a cake that you really love in a smaller size.

—Danielle Werner, *Soirée*

# Cheers!

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casual. Some want fun. Some want formal.... I'm sure they have a vision for their wedding; it should fit their vision."

## 6. Solicit testimonials

When you have narrowed your site selections down to two or three, be sure to gather references.

"Word of mouth is key," advises Mary Burns, the event coordinator at the newly opened Savannah Center in West Chester. Ask recently married friends and relatives about their experiences or post questions on social networking Web sites to other brides. And if you or your friends have attended a party at the venue before, and enjoyed it, trust your instincts.

"Most of our people come because they've been here, or they've heard about it," Ritter says of Paul Brown Stadium. "We've been in business long enough that girls who went to proms here are now having their wedding receptions here."

## 7. Look for a good working relationship

Establishing a relationship with your coordinator is important, too. After all, it often involves a year or more of planning. You'll want to ask, too, if he or she will be with you through all aspects

of the process, even the day of the event. "The person has to have a comfort level with the events person," Ritter emphasizes. "They really do. I think they have to have a real good sense that they are going to be helpful and keep the event running smoothly and make sure it goes off without a hitch."

## 8. Take a test drive

If possible, ask about seeing the venue during another event (similar to yours) and do a little reconnaissance. Check out everything from place settings to the kitchen to the restrooms. Notice the length of the trip from the parking lot to the entrance. Does the room feel uncomfortably warm or crowded? Are the bathrooms adequate for the number of guests? Get a sense of what your guests will be seeing and feeling. "The night of the wedding the bride is so far off in another place," Lieberum says. "She doesn't really know what's going on with her guests."

Food is another important area that you won't want to leave to chance. Check out the reputation of the in-house or preferred caterer and ask to sample the fare.

"Always do a tasting," advises Clayton. Her venue, Currents at the Newport Aquarium, offers an exclusive contract with Cuisine by Jean-Robert. "We actually have a client room where

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couples can go in and sit down, enjoy it, and take their time. That's another thing, too. Don't rush the tasting. Definitely come hungry!"

### 9. Don't overlook entertainment

If you're thinking of a live band, for music and dancing, then all you'll need to consider is a comfortable configuration for the dance floor. But some might need special technology to make their reception swing. Audiovisual equipment has gone super high tech at many places. The Savannah Center, for example, offers iPod docks in all event rooms. Big-screen plasma televisions are available, too, to run digital slideshows or movies.

The Woodlands offers a 13-foot by 20-foot screen to wow guests with videography and The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center offers a state-of-the-art, 300-seat theater, which can continuously loop movies or slideshows of a couple's early courtship on the big screen.

### 10. Expect flexibility, and be flexible

You want your party to be perfect, but remember that the real reason you're there is to celebrate your wedding with family and friends. So, keep things light, and remember that a perfect

compromise might actually sweeten your deal.

Make note of any extra perks. Paul Brown stadium, for example, offers pictures on the field. Some hotels offer free shuttle service and discounts on rooms for your guests.

Some in-house caterers may be flexible with menu items, or negotiate minimums on food and beverages. And, being flexible with the date of your wedding may pay big dividends in the long run.

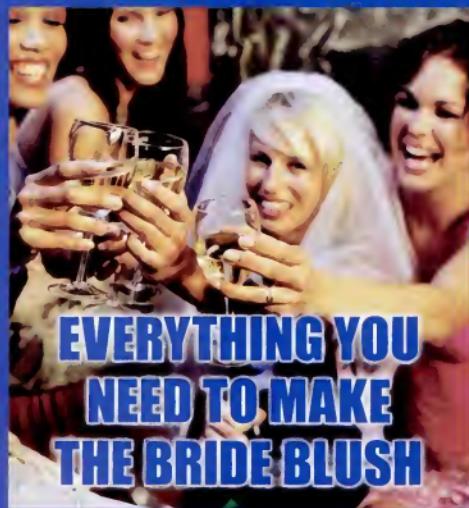
"If they consider an off-season, such as January, February, March or even November (and sometimes December, it just depends on the venue), those are slower seasons, and we can negotiate rental rates a little bit," explains Shawnda Krohn, event director at the Freedom Center.

And what kind of bride would be willing to change the calendar date that she feels is just perfect as is?

"That bride that's on a budget," Krohn explains, "because \$1,000 off your rental? \$1,500 off your rental? That's your flowers! Or maybe it can go toward your honeymoon in that nice, exotic, hot tropical place somewhere."

And who wouldn't want a warm-weather vacation in the middle of January or February? Now that's a perfect ending to a perfect party.

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# one-of-a-kind receptions

## PERSONALIZED TOUCHES AND GIVING BACK LEAD TODAY'S TRENDS

**W**hile sweetheart tables, pinpoint and monogram lighting, hot colors, and edible favors (delicious signature cookies can be used as place cards) are some of the fun trends that will dazzle their fair share of 21st century wedding guests, a few intrepid brides and grooms are adding highly personalized touches and generous gestures that make their receptions exceptional.

A take-home bottle of wine is a fun idea, but one couple made it special when they explained it was the same variety they had shared on the night they became engaged.

"They had us track down for them this particular winery, which happened to be out in Washington someplace," recalls Roger Hollstege, co-owner of destiny's catering at Beckett Ridge Country Club. "Then we had all this wine shipped in. They had [signature] labels made, and they gave it away as gifts to all of their guests, which was kind of nice."

Local vintner Tino Vino, for example, allows brides to blend their own custom wine then label it for the wedding.

Themed weddings are also being given the personal touch. "I worked with a bride and groom who were huge travelers," says Julie Clayton, director of sales at the Newport Aquarium. "They'd been together for five years, and traveled all over the world. Every table had photos and things from places where they had been together. So the escort card said, you're at the

'Paris, France' table. You're at the 'New Orleans' table. It was really neat and so personal."

Shawndra Krohn, event director at the Freedom Center, finds that as the median age for brides and grooms climbs, more mature couples are combining fully equipped households and have less need to stock a home with new goods. Instead, they're graciously suggesting that guests give back to their nonprofit hosts.

"I find that here at the museum, a lot of brides, instead of asking for wedding gifts, they will say, 'please, if you want to give a gift to the bride and groom, you can make a contribution to our favorite nonprofit organization,'" Krohn says. "They have everything. They've been on their own for 10 years.... As a matter of fact that is the only real true trend that I've seen over the last few years."

Marsha Burton, director of sales and marketing at the Oasis Conference Center, also sees more thought put into charitable aspects.

"I've also seen a lot of brides, instead of doing favors, donating the money they would have spent on favors to charities," Burton says. One bride used red, yellow and pink bracelets, each depicting a different charitable cause, as choice-of-entrée cards to place at each diner's plate. The color indicated the choice of a beef, chicken or seafood entrée. The bracelet, of course, was the guest's to keep. The servers could serve each guest accurately, and the charities were also winners. — Sue Goldberg

# TRADE SECRETS

Consider specialty lighting for your centerpieces. Nothing makes them more beautiful. They will take your guests' breath away, but they won't realize the centerpieces are lit—only that they look stunning!

—Elisa MacKenzie,  
*Elegant Events by Elisa*

Use your flowers for more than one purpose. Have the attendants put their bouquets in vases of water for the cocktail hour or scattered around the reception room. Provide mini vases to display the mothers' flowers in the ladies' room or elsewhere. Reuse the ceremony flowers on the buffet table, gift table or place card table.

—Heidi Pasqualetti,  
*I Thee Wed*

Have your florist fax you a complete and up-to-date list of who needs to receive flowers before the ceremony. Put someone reliable in charge of distributing the flowers.

—Brigid Horne-Nestor,  
*i-do Weddings & Events*

Choose bright, colorful bouquets for the bride (gorgeous against the white dress) and lighter bouquets for the bridesmaids—they look great in pictures.

—Elisa MacKenzie,  
*Elegant Events by Elisa*

Pick a ceremony site that doesn't need a lot of flowers or accessories, such as a park with a lot of trees and flowers or a beautiful church that doesn't need a lot of embellishments.

—Dawn Degenbach,  
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# music matters

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MUSIC BUDGET

by rachel kellerman

**P**lanning the music for your wedding entails more than simply picking out some of your favorite songs. It involves deciding whether to have a musician at the ceremony, a live band or DJ or both at the reception, what genre (or genres) of music will be played, and most importantly, how much of your wedding budget you want to dedicate to music. Thankfully, there are a wide variety of music options to create an unforgettable event.

## Budget Conscious

Couples working with a smaller budget allocated to music may be concerned they will have fewer options to choose from, but there are ways to incorporate music into your ceremony and reception without breaking the bank.

A new trend in wedding music is emerging with the advent of portable music players like the iPod, which provides a do-it-yourself, affordable option.

The use of MP3 players is becoming increasingly popular in weddings with any size budget. "Certainly, you have more options with a bigger budget," says Brigid Horne-Nestor, i-do Weddings & Events. "[But] the iPod is something even brides with higher budgets are using."

Local musician and founder of Rent My Gear, Nicholas Radina, agrees that "iPod weddings" are growing in

popularity and are acceptable to wedding guests. For \$299, Radina delivers a professional quality, easy-to-use sound system, complete with wireless microphone. The system is small and discreet, but produces a sound to accommodate parties of as many as 250 guests.

"I'm not trying to replace a band or DJ," Radina says. "It's for people who are trying to save money or be unique."

## Midline Budget

If your music budget is somewhere in the middle, a live band or DJ are good options. Many agencies can provide a variety of entertainers, making it easy to find a band that fits your needs. "Live music allows for interaction, which is key," says Casey Lee, event planner at Showstoppers Talent Agency. Yet, all that live interaction comes with a price.

"Most bands in Cincinnati are in the range of \$2,500 to \$4,000," Horne-Nestor says. "So for people who can't bring in a band, there is the possibility of getting a DJ who works the crowd like a live band."

Some entertainers offer DJ services along with their live entertainment, such as Jack Garrett of Jack Garrett Productions. The local crooner provides couples with a variety of choices ranging from a trio to a 24-piece orchestra, with a DJ at no additional cost to keep the party going during breaks. "The DJ is really a supplement to the live music," Garrett adds.

## Top-Tier Budget

When music is a priority on your wedding budget, musical selections should stand out during each moment of the big day. Try adding special touches such as hiring an instrumental group to perform at the ceremony and during the cocktail hour, or featuring multiple bands at the reception.

According to Linda Grieser, harpist and consultant for the Adagio Trio, which also includes a flutist and cellist, adding an instrumental group to your special day can add a unique, elegant touch. Grieser says she works with a number of local musicians, so clients can also substitute or add additional instruments, or a vocalist, to the lineup.

Grieser says the trio plays anything from classical to modern selections and can play at the ceremony, reception, or both. "I try to work with a person and their budget and help them find what they need," Grieser adds.

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# reception locator

To help you choose the best site for your celebration, we offer the **Reception Locator**. It includes price, capacity and general information for many of the top reception locations in Cincinnati USA.

The information provided is understood to be current, but make sure to check with each facility before booking events.

ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>20TH CENTURY THEATER</b> 3021 Madison Road, Oakley 513-731-8000 <a href="http://www.the20thcenturytheater.com">www.the20thcenturytheater.com</a>	\$1,500 Sat.; \$750 Fri./50%	300 seated	\$17.95-\$26.95	Non-refundable deposit, but transferable	Classic art deco theater with VIP room available, complete with pool table, bar, jukebox, and other amenities. Flexible. Can provide many services.
<b>A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE</b> 5959 Kellogg Ave., Eastside 513-231-2312 <a href="http://www.atouchofelegance.info">www.atouchofelegance.info</a>	\$500/\$1,000	20-400	\$15-\$35	Deposit refunded if room re-booked within 180 days	Elegant, family-owned and operated facility. Special wedding package available that includes wine served on silver trays upon arrival, light display, hot hors d'oeuvres, chair covers and family style salad and rolls.
<b>ALMS PARK PAVILION</b> 750 Alms Park Circle, Mt. Lookout 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$700 during week; \$850 for weekend/\$200	120 seated	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	This historic stone pavilion features a second-floor arcade with views of the Ohio River valley.
<b>ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS</b> 650 Walnut St., Downtown 513-977-4123 <a href="http://www.cincinnatiarts.org">www.cincinnatiarts.org</a>	\$160-\$560/50% of rent with balance and estimated expenses due 10 days in advance	Limited seating, under 100 ideal	Varies/preferred caterer list	Non-refundable deposit	Located in the heart of downtown's entertainment district, the Aronoff Center offers a unique venue, especially for rehearsal dinners.
<b>BALTIMORE PARK PAVILION</b> 5090 Observatory Circle, Mt. Lookout 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$800 during week, \$1,500 for Friday or Sunday, \$1,800 for Saturday/\$200	600	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	This historic Italianate-style pavilion includes grand terraces, a cascading fountain and rooftop access overlooking formal gardens.
<b>THE BANKERS CLUB</b> 511 Walnut St., Ste. 3000, Downtown 513-651-3660 <a href="http://www.bankers-clin.com">www.bankers-clin.com</a>	\$400 facility fee for non-members/\$500 deposit for weddings	175 seated	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	Great view and atmosphere, superior service and cuisine.
<b>BB RIVERBOATS</b> 101 Riverboat Row, Newport 859-261-8500 <a href="http://www.bbriverboats.com">www.bbriverboats.com</a>	Based on number/\$100 non-refundable, 1/3 on booking	50-1,000	\$28-\$75	More than 90 days before, 50%; inside of 90 days, no refund	Three different size vessels for scenic waterfront weddings. Options range from the river's shore to a floating wedding.
<b>BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM</b> 1600 Montague Road, Devou Park 859-491-4003 <a href="http://www.bcmuseum.org">www.bcmuseum.org</a>	Call for rates	Varies depending on location, please call	Varies	Refundable until 30 days prior	An old Victorian mansion formerly owned by the Devou family offers a fully-enclosed, heated and air-conditioned veranda. Full of windows that overlook the terraced backyard. Recently expanded structure offers various options for ceremony/reception location.
<b>BELL EVENT CENTRE</b> 444 Reading Road, Downtown 513-282-2787 <a href="http://www.belleventcentre.com">www.belleventcentre.com</a>	Please call/\$1,500 deposit	Up to 350	\$32-\$42	Please call	Located in the restored, historic St. Paul's Church. Cobblestone courtyard with city-view seating, real terrazzo flooring, stained glass windows, free on-site parking and full-service staff.
<b>BELTERRA CASINO RESORT &amp; SPA</b> 777 Belterra Drive, Belterra, IN 812-427-7791 <a href="http://www.belterracasino.com">www.belterracasino.com</a>	Varies	up to 900	\$18.95 and up	Please call	Elegant event rooms, customized menu options from buffet to sit-down dinners, wide range of linens.



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For more information, contact Kimberly Hein, Event Coordinator

513.459.7711 x 123 or [khein@heritageclub.com](mailto:khein@heritageclub.com)

Images courtesy  
Mansion Hill Studio

ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>BEL-WOOD COUNTRY CLUB</b> 5873 Ludlum Road, Morrow 513-899-3361 ext. 117 <a href="http://www.belwoodcc.com">www.belwoodcc.com</a>	\$400/\$500	Up to 350	\$17-\$45	Six months 100%; after six months, non-refundable; can be applied to future date	A dramatically luxurious setting including patio, dance floor and full antique bar. Smaller rooms for rehearsal dinners and showers.
<b>THE BENCHMARK</b> Fifth and Johnson St., Covington 859-491-2987 <a href="http://www.thebenchmark.net">www.thebenchmark.net</a>	Varies by menu/\$500	275 main floor; 100 upstairs	\$24-\$33	Ask for details	Offering elegance at an affordable price. The Benchmark offers a stress-free event complete with a friendly staff and extensive menu selection.
<b>BRIARWOOD</b> 2134 Petersburg Road, Hebron 859-689-4000/800-281-6682 <a href="http://www.briarwoodbanquet.com">www.briarwoodbanquet.com</a>	Please call/\$1,500 deposit	Up to 750	\$27.95 and up	180 days refundable	Elegantly decorated, Briarwood offers personalized room design, full-service bar, ceremony site and private entryways. The wedding cake is included with the service.
<b>CARNEGIE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER</b> 1028 Scott Blvd., Covington 859-491-2030 <a href="http://www.thecarnegie.com">www.thecarnegie.com</a>	Please call/\$1,500	Up to 175 seated in gallery, 465 in theatre	Varies, preferred caterer list	Please call	Arts facility includes four art galleries. Main gallery has an ornate ceiling with beautiful open rotunda.
<b>CELEBRATIONS CRUISE LINE</b> 848 Elm St., Ludlow, KY 859-581-2600 <a href="http://www.celebrationriverboats.com">www.celebrationriverboats.com</a>	\$750-\$1,500	380 passengers	Varies based on menu selection	Varies	A custom, private, exclusive cruise company catering to groups ranging from 30-380.
<b>CHALK FOOD + WINE</b> 318 Greenup St., Covington 859-643-1234 <a href="http://www.jeanrobertgroup.com/chalk">www.jeanrobertgroup.com/chalk</a>	None	30 seated; 10-35 cocktails; whole restaurant, 150	Starts at \$25	No charge, 72 hours before, \$200 service charge otherwise	Open for lunch and dinner. Contemporary, fun and friendly atmosphere.
<b>THE CHART HOUSE</b> 405 Riverboat Row, Newport 859-261-0300 <a href="http://www.chart-house.com">www.chart-house.com</a>	n/a	250	Packages from \$33.95-\$4.95 per person	Within 72 hours	The spectacular view of downtown Cincinnati, excellent cuisine with seafood specialties and flawless service make The Chart House a truly exceptional experience.
<b>CHATEAU POMMIER WINERY</b> 25043 Jacob Road, Guilford, IN 800-791-9463 <a href="http://www.cpwinery.com">www.cpwinery.com</a>	Based on number of people, \$1,000	Up to 250 seated; 700+ reception style	Varies	Deposit non-refundable	One of the most intriguing and beautiful wedding facilities in the Midwest.
<b>CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM</b> 953 Eden Park Drive, Eden Park 513-639-2347 <a href="http://www.cincinnatiamuseum.org">www.cincinnatiamuseum.org</a>	Call for rates	180 seated, 400 reception style	Varies	Deposit non-refundable	Located in lush Eden Park. Unique photo opportunities. Sculpture garden available. Twin marble staircase. Ideal for ceremony. Exclusively catered by Bistro Catering.
<b>CINCINNATI CLUB BUILDING</b> 30 Garfield Place, Downtown 513-241-3464 <a href="http://www.cincinnatoclubbuilding.com">www.cincinnatoclubbuilding.com</a>	Varies	10-1,000	Varies	If re-booked, 90% refunded or \$100 retained, whichever gives bride the most return	Experience. Elegance. The Cincinnati Club provides unparalleled cuisine and services, and our experienced staff is available to assist you with every detail.
<b>CINCINNATI MARRIOTT AT RIVERCENTER</b> 10 W. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington 859-261-2900 <a href="http://www.cincinnatimariottrivercenter.com">www.cincinnatimariottrivercenter.com</a>	Based on event accommodations	Reception: 600; Banquet: 330	Dinner \$25.95-\$45.95, wedding packages available	Contractual	A four-diamond and award-winning hotel offering everything to make your wedding a momentous occasion.
<b>CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER AT UNION TERMINAL</b> 1301 Western Ave., Downtown 513-621-3326 <a href="http://www.cincymuseum.org">www.cincymuseum.org</a>	\$250-\$1,500/50%	Up to 800	\$20 and up	Please call	Nostalgic 1930s train station, art deco architecture, intimate dining rooms, grand rotunda, fountain plaza and ample parking. Catered by DECO Dining.
<b>CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY CENTER</b> 3489 Observatory Place, Mt. Lookout 513-321-5186 <a href="http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org">www.cincinnatiobservatory.org</a>	\$550-\$1,500, depending on facilities used	Indoor sit-down 50, cocktail 75; outdoor w/ tent 125	Bring in own catering	50% non-refundable deposit	The birthplace of American astronomy located in a beautiful park-like setting ideal for wedding ceremonies and receptions.



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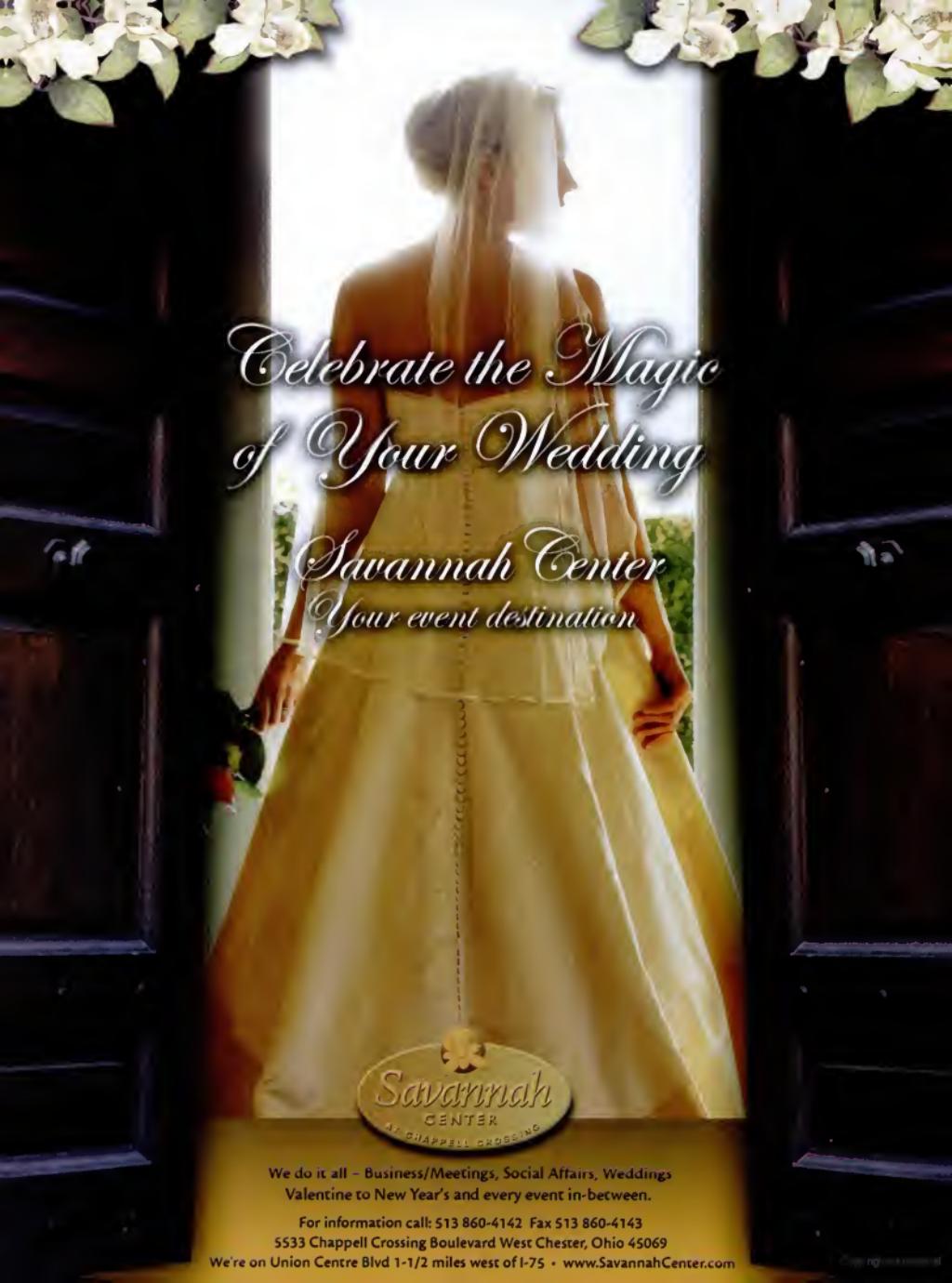
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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>THE CINCINNATIAN HOTEL</b> 601 Vine St., Downtown 513-381-3000 <a href="http://www.cincinnatihotel.com">www.cincinnatihotel.com</a>	Varies by room	90 seated, 200 standing reception	Varies by selection	30 days	The Cincinnati Hotel is committed to the fine art of ensuring that your catered affair is executed with the optimum quality, value and service. Features Four Diamond culinary team, amenities and attentive staff, which offers a custom tailored success for your event in downtown Cincinnati.
<b>CLARION HOTEL &amp; SUITES</b> 5901 Pfeiffer Road, Blue Ash 513-793-4500/800-793-4500 <a href="http://www.clarioncincinnati.com">www.clarioncincinnati.com</a>	Varies/25% based on estimated revenue	350	\$19.95-\$36	3 months	Let our staff make your wedding day the perfect experience from the first meeting to the final day.
<b>CONEY ISLAND'S MOONLITE GARDENS</b> 6201 Kellogg Ave., East Side 513-232-6701 <a href="http://www.coneyislandpark.com">www.coneyislandpark.com</a>	\$2,000 upon signed contract	400 and up	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	Your dream reception will become reality at this beautiful open-air facility. Let our experienced staff and executive chef make your big day the perfect day.
<b>CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER</b> 44 E. Sixth St., Downtown 513-345-8402 <a href="http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/rent">www.contemporaryartscenter.org/rent</a>	\$500-\$5,000/50%	5-1,000 depending on setup	\$10-\$50+	Greater than 90 days, all fees minus 50% deposit, less than 90 days no refund	The Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) offers an internationally celebrated space for your event, capable of accommodating functions from black-tie to tie-dye, caviar to cookout and everything in between.
<b>CROWNE PLAZA CINCINNATI BLUE ASH</b> 5901 Pfeiffer Road, Blue Ash 513-793-4500/800-793-4500 <a href="http://www.crowneplaza.com/blueash">www.crowneplaza.com/blueash</a>	Please call	Up to 350	Please call	Please call	Garden atrium along with ballrooms, this facility offers customized menus and a variety of wedding packages.
<b>CURRENTS THE BALLROOM AT NEWPORT AQUARIUM</b> One Aquarium Way, Newport 859-815-1427 <a href="http://www.newportaquarium.com">www.newportaquarium.com</a>	\$1,500 and up/ half of established event fee	1-1,500	Varies/pREFERRED CATERER	365 days full refund, 180-364 days 25% total fee retained, 90-179 days 50% retained, 0-89 days 100% retained	Entertain guests in an underwater world of brightly colored fish and exotic marine life. The Newport Aquarium is exclusively yours for the entire evening.
<b>DAVE &amp; BUSTER'S</b> 11775 Commons Drive, Springdale 513-671-5501 <a href="http://www.daveandbusters.com">www.daveandbusters.com</a>	Varies	10- 3,000	Varies depending on caterer	Full refund 30 days prior	65,000 square feet of food and fun. Can accommodate anything from casual atmosphere to intimate sit-down dinner. More than 15 buffet options and Million Dollar Midway with games for everyone.
<b>DEER RUN COUNTRY CLUB</b> 7414 Pickway Drive, Cincinnati 513-941-8000 <a href="http://www.deeruncountryclub.com">www.deeruncountryclub.com</a>	\$250 indoor/\$500 outdoor; waived if \$2,000 in food	100 indoor/150 outdoor	\$22.95 and up	Refund if re-booked	Private country club, personalized service, scenic views with beautiful sunsets.
<b>DESHA'S</b> 11320 Montgomery Road, Montgomery 513-247-9933 <a href="http://www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com">www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com</a>	Varies	50-300	Varies	Please call	Warm and cozy restaurant with wood overtones and two different bar areas (The Grille and Muir Field Pub). The faculty overlooks a pond.
<b>DESTINY YACHT CHARTERS</b> 3653 River Road, Riverside 513-921-3210 <a href="http://www.destinyyachtcharters.com">www.destinyyachtcharters.com</a>	\$1,000/\$1,500	100 buffet dinner, 149 cocktail party	Please call	Non-refundable deposit	Enjoy your rehearsal dinner, exquisite intimate wedding and reception or anniversary party aboard Cincinnati's largest private yacht. Call to schedule your date with Destiny.
<b>DESTINYS CATERING &amp; BANQUETS AT BECKETT RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB</b> 5595 Beckett Ridge Blvd., Ste. B, West Chester 513-858-2122 <a href="http://www.destinycatering.com">www.destinycatering.com</a>	\$700/\$600	300	\$19.99 and up, all-inclusive	Refundable, if re-booked	Nestled in the hills of northern Cincinnati, Destinys at the Beckett Ridge Country Club offers a panoramic view from high above West Chester.
<b>DONAUSCHWABEN HALL</b> 4200 Dry Ridge Road, Colerain Twp. 513-245-0586 <a href="http://www.donauschwaben.com">www.donauschwaben.com</a>	Included in package price/\$500	Large hall, 500	Included in rental price	Eight months prior to event, non-refundable deposit	German hospitality complete with an old-world charm. Second hall available, holds up to 130.



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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>DRAWBRIDGE INN</b> 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell 859-344-7847 <a href="http://www.drawbridgeinn.com">www.drawbridgeinn.com</a>	Room cost waived with meal/\$500 deposit	Main Ballroom 400; Convention Center 900	\$12.95-\$36.95	Non-refundable within one year of contracted date	Major renovations in 2007/2008 include Canterbury Hall Ballroom (seated capacity 400), hotel guest rooms and hallways, new menu options, nightclub on-site.
<b>DREES PAVILION AT DEVOUT PARK MEMORIAL LOOKOUT</b> 790 Park Lane, Covington 859-431-2577 <a href="http://www.dreespavilion.com">www.dreespavilion.com</a>	\$2,400-\$4,000/\$1,000	300 with dance floor; 350 without	Varies depending on caterer	If cancel 90 days before date, all money returned less \$500	Features fabulous view of the skyline of downtown, beautiful park setting, outdoor terrace and free parking.
<b>DUKE ENERGY CENTER GRAND BALLROOM</b> 525 Elm St., Downtown 513-352-6101 <a href="http://www.duke-energycenter.com">www.duke-energycenter.com</a>	Varies/Varies	2,400 entire ballroom	Varies depending on menu	Varies	Full of bright colors with open ceiling accented by fabric mesh. State-of-the-art sound and lighting.
<b>ELEGANCE RECEPTION HALL</b> 8605 Haines Drive, Ste. D, Florence 859-384-4255 <a href="http://www.llimo.com">www.llimo.com</a>	Priced per guest/\$500-\$1,000	352 Main Hall; 140 Greenhouse Room	\$19-\$37	Please call	Beautiful location with 18-foot ceilings, two curved staircases, two bars, 10 chandeliers, water fountain, movable dance floor and fabulous private bridal suite.
<b>THE ELEMENTS CONFERENCE &amp; EVENT CENTRE</b> 11974 Lebanon Road, Sharonville 513-733-3536 <a href="http://www.elementsevencentre.com">www.elementsevencentre.com</a>	Please contact	3 rooms, 450+ banquet layout	\$25-\$50	Please call	A full banquet and conference facility with 15,000 square feet, which can be customized with a variety of layouts for your event needs.

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
EMBASSY SUITES CINCINNATI RIVERCENTER 10 E. Rivercenter Blvd., Covington 859-261-8400 <a href="http://www.embassysuitesrivercenter.com">www.embassysuitesrivercenter.com</a>	Food & beverage minimum/\$500	230	\$35.95-\$45.95	Sliding scale based on cancellation date	Beautiful garden atrium with cas- cading waterfalls sets the mood for your elegant affair. Wedding package includes complimentary crudité, suite for bride and groom and complimentary parking.
FARFIELD BANQUET AND CONVENTION CENTER AT TORI'S STATION 74 Donald Drive, Fairfield 513-829-8400 <a href="http://www.fairfieldconventionctr.com">www.fairfieldconventionctr.com</a>	Varies/\$500	Diamond Room 250; Victoria Room 750; Sapphire Room 300	\$18.95-\$28.95	Written notification within 72 hours, de- posit refunded	Multiple rooms with 25-foot ceilings and balconies. Each room comes with a built-in sound system and stage. An outdoor wedding garden and gazebo also available.
THE FARM 239 Anderson Ferry Road, Delhi 513-922-7020 <a href="http://www.thelacetoparty.com">www.thelacetoparty.com</a>	Included in package price/\$600+	40-600	\$19-\$23	Nine months no- tice or resell date with same number of people	Two beautiful rooms with large dance floors. Fifty-five years of great food and service. No tipping or gratuity. Five miles west of downtown in Delhi Township. Minutes from Ken- tucky and Indiana. Free parking.
FITTON CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS 101 S. Monument St., Hamilton 513-863-8873 <a href="http://www.fittoncenter.org">www.fittoncenter.org</a>	\$500 and up/25%	Vista Room 80; Ballroom 230; Entire third floor, 300	Varies, Preferred caterers	Up to 60 days before date, total refund mi- nus \$25 administra- tion fee	Puts the "art" in your party! On the Great Miami River, the beautiful and contemporary Fitton Center for Cre- ative Arts offers many room options.
FRENCH HOUSE 3012 Section Road, Amberley Village 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$800 for week- days, \$1,600 for Friday or Sunday, \$1,750 for Saturday/ \$200 refundable damage deposit	120 (400 with tent)	Varies	Non-refundable de- posit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	Elegant, two-story brick house, the centerpiece of French Park. The re- stored French House includes out- door terraces, meadows, gardens and adjoining dining room.



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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>THE GARDENS OF PARK HILLS</b> 1622 Dixie Hwy, Park Hills 859-442-7776 <a href="http://www.kycater.com">www.kycater.com</a>	Included in package price/\$250-\$1,000	Vista Room: 350; Arbor Room: 300	All inclusive; \$27-\$50 per guest	Non-refundable	A McHale's Hospitality Group Property. The Gardens of Park Hills is an exquisite banquet facility located in charming Park Hills, KY. The Gardens features two beautiful banquet rooms—The Vista Room and The Arbor Room. Exclusively catered by McHale's Catering.
<b>GLENDALE LYCEUM</b> 865 Congress Ave., Glendale 513-771-8383 <a href="http://www.glendalelyceum.com">www.glendalelyceum.com</a>	\$3,500 plus tax, \$4,500 Sat. plus tax/ \$500 plus tax	275	Bring in own catering	Percentage refunded if re-booked	Rich in history, elegant, warm and inviting. The Lyceum's charm and convenient location make it perfect for weddings, receptions and meetings.
<b>THE GOLDEN LAMB INN</b> 27 S. Broadway, Lebanon 513-932-5065 <a href="http://www.goldenlamb.com">www.goldenlamb.com</a>	\$30-\$100	96 seated	\$24 and up	Refund if cancel 60 days before booking	Tastefully decorated private dining rooms on the first or second floor of Ohio's oldest inn. Ideal for rehearsal dinners, intimate receptions, showers or bridal lunches.
<b>THE GOLF CLUB AT STONEWICK HILLS</b> 3155 Sheryln Lane, Batavia 513-735-4653 <a href="http://www.stonewickhills.com">www.stonewickhills.com</a>	\$500 for ballroom only; \$2,500 for entire clubhouse w/ patio; fees reduced 50% if on-site catering/50% total cost	150 inside/180 total	Own caterer optional; on-site \$15 and up	Deposit refunded if cancel 72 hours before event	Convenient location off of State Route 50 in Batavia. Clubhouse features a large patio overlooking a lake, plenty of convenient parking and champagne for wedding party.
<b>THE GRAND AT FIFTH &amp; MADISON</b> 6 E. Fifth St., Covington 859-292-8955 <a href="http://www.thegrandcovington.com">www.thegrandcovington.com</a>	Varies/\$500-\$1,000	400	Varies by caterer	Non-refundable	Northern Kentucky's newest banquet facility. Located in the historic Odd Fellow Hall in Covington. Exquisite banquet room with many state-of-the-art features. Exclusively catered by Funky's Catering and McHale's Catering.
<b>GREAT AMERICAN BALL PARK</b> 100 Main St., Downtown 513-765-7000 <a href="http://www.reds.com">www.reds.com</a>	\$500-\$1,250	350	\$26.95 and up	Loss of deposit and sliding scale thereafter depending on notice. Please call.	The Riverfront Club offers a unique setting for rehearsal dinners and receptions. Impress your friends and family with delicious cuisine and breathtaking backdrop from this glass-enclosed club.
<b>GREAT WOLF LODGE</b> 2501 Great Wolf Drive, Mason 513-459-8885 <a href="http://www.greatwolf.com">www.greatwolf.com</a>	Varies	650 max.	\$20.95 and up	Please call	One of the area's newest facilities, offering exceptional cuisine and finely appointed spaces.
<b>GREENACRES ARTS CENTER</b> 8400 Blome Road, Indian Hill 513-793-2787 <a href="http://www.green-acres.org">www.green-acres.org</a>	Contact for details	180 indoor/400 tented outdoor	Varies/ preferred caterer list	Non-refundable six months before	Idyllic setting in restored, historic 1920s estate with cascading mountains, exquisite gardens on 250 acres.
<b>GREENUP CAFE</b> 308 Greenup St., Covington 859-261-3663 <a href="http://www.jeanrobertgroup.com">www.jeanrobertgroup.com</a>	Varies	70 inside, additional 40 outside	\$10 average for breakfast, \$12.50 average for brunch, \$15 average for lunch, \$32 average for dinner; not including alcohol	Please call	A Parisian-style cafe, this restaurant offers a friendly staff and seasonal outdoor patio.
<b>HARTWELL COUNTRY CLUB</b> 59 Caldwell Drive, Hartwell 513-821-9257 <a href="http://www.hartwellrec.com">www.hartwellrec.com</a>	\$250-\$1,500/\$500	680 seated	\$21 and up	Must be made in writing, refunded if re-booked. No refund of deposit if 6 months prior to event	Newly decorated main hall, beautiful foyer, seating for up to 700. Professional and friendly staff.
<b>HEATHERWOODE GOLF CLUB</b> 88 Heatherwoode Blvd., Springboro 937-748-3222 <a href="http://www.heatherwoodegc.com">www.heatherwoodegc.com</a>	Varies/\$500 to hold room, 50% estimated event cost	250	\$19.95 and up	Non-refundable deposit	A premier reception, banquet and meeting facility serving Northern Cincinnati and Southern Dayton.



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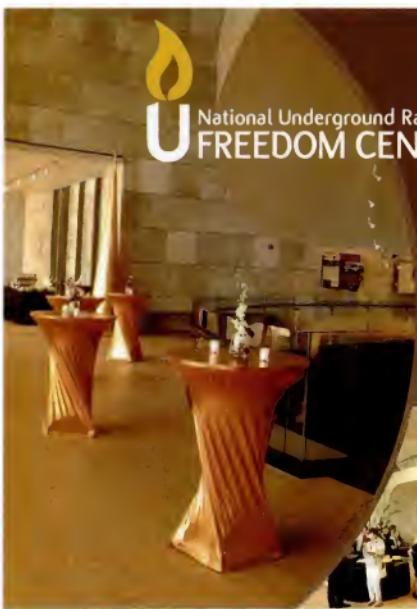
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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>HERITAGE CLUB</b> 6690 Heritage Club Drive, Mason 513-459-7711, ext. 123 <a href="http://www.heritageclub.com">www.heritageclub.com</a>	\$500-\$1,500	200	\$18 and up	Varies, please call for details	Heritage Club offers breathtaking views, as well as an intimate clubhouse and a one-of-a-kind culinary experience
<b>HIGHWOOD LODGE AT WITHROW NATURE PRESERVE</b> 7075 Five Mile Road, Anderson 513-521-PARK <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	\$695/\$695	60 seated, 125 cocktail outdoors	Own caterer	Please call	Nestled in the middle of a park, the Historic Withrow Nature Preserve and Highwood Lodge is a place of natural beauty perfect for any reception, rehearsal dinner, bridal shower or vow renewal.
<b>HILTON CINCINNATI AIRPORT</b> 7373 Turfway Road, Florence 859-371-4400 <a href="http://www.hiltoncincinnatiairport.com">www.hiltoncincinnatiairport.com</a>	Based on food and beverage/ negotiated	300	\$37-\$45	Varies	Experience personal consulting. Special room rates for out-of-town guests. Free junior suite for bride and groom night of reception.
<b>HILTON CINCINNATI NETHERLAND PLAZA</b> 35 W. Fifth St., Downtown 513-421-9100 <a href="http://www.cincinnatinetherlandplaza.hilton.com">www.cincinnatinetherlandplaza.hilton.com</a>	None with food and beverage minimum/Varies	20-750	Varies	Deposit refunded prior to 6 months	National Historic Landmark and AAA 4-Diamond Award Winner. French art deco masterpiece with three spectacular ballrooms, impeccable service, excellent cuisine.
<b>HOLIDAY INN &amp; ROBERTS CONVENTION CENTRE</b> 123 Gano Road, Wilmington 937-283-3272 <a href="http://www.robertscentre.com">www.robertscentre.com</a>	Based on food and beverage/Varies	4-2,000	\$18-\$34	Varies	Upscale full service Holiday Inn hotel and attached convention centre. On-site chef, coordinators and banquet staff.
<b>INDIAN RIDGE GOLF AND BANQUET CENTER</b> 2600 Oxford-Millville Road, Oxford 513-524-4653 <a href="http://www.golfindianridge.com">www.golfindianridge.com</a>	\$550-\$900/\$250	150	Own caterer (\$250 fee)	Non-refundable deposit	Golf course setting with beautiful views, patio ceremony site available.



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Or call our Private Events office, **513.333.7574**




ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>IVY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB</b> 7711 Ivy Hills Blvd., Anderson Twp. 513-561-9119 <a href="http://www.ivyhillscountryclub.com">www.ivyhillscountryclub.com</a>	\$250-\$500/25% of minimum	300	\$17.95 and up	Non-refundable deposit	Imagine fabulous cuisine and impeccable service in our elegant clubhouse. Wall-to-wall windows and crystal chandeliers paint the perfect background. Beautiful outdoor ceremony site available.
<b>JEAN-RISTRO</b> 413 Vine St., Downtown 513-821-1465 <a href="http://www.bistrojeanro.com">www.bistrojeanro.com</a>	None	80 seated, 100 cocktails	Varies depend- ing on menu	One week	French Parisian Bistro. Simple. Fresh. Comfortable. A "neighborhood" kind of place where you meet up with friends and talk about everything under the sun.
<b>JEAN-ROBERT AT PIGALL'S</b> 127 W. Fourth St., Downtown 513-721-1345 <a href="http://www.jeanrobertgroup.com">www.jeanrobertgroup.com</a>	None/\$25 per person	Large, private room 12-50; whole restaurant, 80; cocktail re- ception 125	\$74-\$97	Two weeks, full re- fund, if less, credit for deposit is issued for future booking	Region's only four-star, four-diamond, Relais & Chateau property. Fine dining with contemporary ambiance.
<b>KINGS ISLAND RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 5691 Kings Island Drive, Mason 513- 229-5640 <a href="http://www.kingsislandresort.com">www.kingsislandresort.com</a>	No room cost/\$5 per per- son of the es- timated guest count	50-400 guests	\$29.99-\$49.99 per person	No penalty if event is rescheduled within same calendar year	Two elegant, spacious ballrooms offer the perfect setting for your perfect day; 22 manicured acres and lakeside ceremony location are perfect for outdoor nuptials.
<b>THE KOLPING CENTER</b> 10235 Mill Road, Mil Healthy 513-851-7951 <a href="http://www.kolpingcenter.com">www.kolpingcenter.com</a>	Included in food price/\$100-\$800	100-700	\$23-\$36	Non-refundable de- posit. Full refund if date re-booked.	Elegant décor with chandeliers and cathedral ceilings. Spaciousness allows flexibility. Outdoor pavilion, gazebo and picnic grounds provide imaginative setting for weddings.

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>KROHN CONSERVATORY</b> 1501 Eden Park Drive, Mt. Adams 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$1,200/\$200	100 (for ceremonies), 120 (reception-style)	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	Celebrate in one of the country's major urban conservatories, featuring seasonal floral shows, major rainforest, desert and tropical plant collections. Indoor waterfall. Elegant art deco glass structure.
<b>LA PETITE FRANCE</b> 3177 Glendale-Milford Road, Evanston 513-733-8383 <a href="http://www.lapetitefrance.biz">www.lapetitefrance.biz</a>	None/\$50	12 to 150	\$15-\$45	If cancel before 1 week, deposit is returned	Three elegant private dining rooms (two with fireplaces) featuring traditional French décor; one modern bistro with large full-service bar.
<b>LAKE LYND SAY RECEPTION CENTER</b> 4845 Augsperger Road, Hamilton 513-868-8556 <a href="http://www.lakeleysay.com">www.lakeleysay.com</a>	Packages vary, please call/\$500	Up to 400	Varies, own caterer	Non-refundable deposit	Surrounded by Lake Lyndsay on three sides, this reception hall is also a great location for outdoor weddings.
<b>THE MADISON EVENT CENTER AND THE MADISON SOUTH</b> 700 & 740 Madison Ave., Covington 859-261-1111 <a href="http://www.thcovingtonmadiison.com">www.thcovingtonmadiison.com</a>	Please call	Up to 425	Varies	Please call	Six beautiful ballrooms and a smaller, cozy suite to accommodate your ceremony, reception or rehearsal dinner. All-inclusive packaging available. Rewards cash back program.
<b>MANOR HOUSE BANQUET &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 7440 Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason 513-459-0177 <a href="http://www.manorhouseohio.com">www.manorhouseohio.com</a>	Varies	750	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	An elegant "plantation-style" estate with picture-perfect grounds and décor. Crystal chandeliers and mahogany fireplaces and bars create a hotel elegance with a country club setting. Indoor and outdoor ceremony sites available. Numerous overnight accommodations are nearby.
<b>MAPLE RIDGE LODGE</b> 3040 Westwood Northern Blvd., Westwood 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$550/\$150	200	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	The largest lodge in Mt. Airy Forest, Maple Ridge Lodge is surrounded by expansive meadows.
<b>MARINER'S INN—NORTH</b> 7967 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester 513-755-8600 <a href="http://www.chantrillsbanquet.com">www.chantrillsbanquet.com</a>	Room cost included in package/25%	325	\$20-\$60	Six months written notice and another rebooking	Chandeliers, cloth napkins and tablecloths, silverware, china and glassware.
<b>MARINER'S INN—WEST</b> 7391 Forbes Road, Saylor Park 513-941-8600 <a href="http://www.mariners-inn.com">www.mariners-inn.com</a>	None/\$500	50-350	Four menus ranging from \$16.95-\$22.95	Refunded if date re-booked	An elegant, affordable, handicap-accessible facility 15 minutes west of downtown with free parking, great food and full service by professional staff.
<b>THE MARQUISE BANQUET &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b> I-275 & AA Highway, Wilder 859-442-7778 <a href="http://www.kycater.com">www.kycater.com</a>	Included in package price/\$250-\$1,000	450	All inclusive; \$27-\$50 per guest	Non-refundable	A McJale's Hospitality Group Property. The Marquise is an exquisite banquet facility, which features fireplaces in each room. Conveniently located for guests living in both Kentucky and Ohio. Exclusively catered by McJale's Catering.
<b>MARRIOTT KINGSGATE CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 151 Goodman Drive, Uptown 513-487-3827 <a href="http://www.kingsgatemarriott.com">www.kingsgatemarriott.com</a>	\$1,000 deposit	350 with dance floor	\$59-\$69	Sliding scale	Beautiful greenspace with fountain is perfect for outdoor ceremony, receptions and bridal pictures. Specializes in outstanding service and attention to detail. Certified Wedding Event Planners. Parking complimentary for wedding guests.
<b>MEADOWBROOK BANQUET CENTER</b> 2398 Venice Blvd., Ross 513-738-2448 <a href="http://www.hifers.com">www.hifers.com</a>	Varies	Up to 400	Varies	Deposit transferable to another date; if cancelled, refundable if half re-booked	This historic estate setting boasts the Garden Chapel, the perfect place to tie the knot.
<b>THE MEADOWS BANQUET AND CATERING SERVICES</b> 59 E. Main St. (Cleves-Warsaw), Western Hills 513-941-7638 <a href="http://www.themeadowsbanquet.com">www.themeadowsbanquet.com</a>	No room charge/\$600	Grand Ballroom 310; Victorian Room 100	Various wedding packages. No service charge.	Deposit refunded if re-booked	Distinctive setting for your wedding. All-inclusive packages with no service or room charge. Professional staff assuring attention to every detail and accommodating your every wish.

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>MILL RACE BANQUET CENTER</b> 1515 W. Sharon Road, Green Hills 513-521-PARK <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	None/\$390 applied to food & beverage	150	\$19.60, gratuities not accepted	Greater than 10 days to event, refund if date re-booked	Enjoy a panoramic view from the "wall of windows" that overlooks the Mill Race Golf Course.
<b>MILLENNIUM HOTEL CINCINNATI</b> 150 W. Fifth St., Downtown 513-352-2120 <a href="http://www.millenniumhotels.com">www.millenniumhotels.com</a>	Based on food and beverage/25%	15-1,500	\$52-\$99 all inclusive	Must be made in writing. Refundable minus deposit if re-booked	Grand Ballroom with new carpet, eight chandeliers. Second floor is two stories high with view overlooking city. Bride and groom receive a complimentary room, parking and a bottle of champagne.
<b>MORTON'S THE STEAKHOUSE</b> Carew Tower, 441 Vine St., Downtown 513-621-5111 <a href="http://www.mortons.com">www.mortons.com</a>	None/Varies	104	Varies	Five business days	From USDA prime beef to Morton's legendary service, our private boardroom is the perfect venue for your rehearsal dinner.
<b>MT. ECHO PAVILION</b> 251 Mt. Echo Park Drive, Price Hill 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$800/\$200	150	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	Intimate Italianate-style pavilion with marble columns offering the best breathtaking view of Cincinnati and the Ohio River.
<b>MUSIC HALL</b> 1241 Elm St., Downtown 513-744-3242 <a href="http://www.cincinnatilarts.org">www.cincinnatilarts.org</a>	\$1,900-\$3,600/50% of room fee	100-800	n/a	Deposit is non-refundable unless able to re-book the facility for the cancelled date	Beautiful, historic building. If you're looking for something breathtakingly unique, this is the place for you!
<b>NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER</b> 50 E. Freedom Way, Downtown 513-333-7584 <a href="http://www.freedomcenter.org">www.freedomcenter.org</a>	\$3,200/50%	Grand Hall, 300	Benson Catering, exclusive caterer	Non-refundable deposit unless cancellation is 6 months prior to event	Spectacular venue to host private, corporate and social events. Two floors of premier event space with private terraces overlooking the Ohio River.

*Pebble Creek Golf Course*

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>THE NEWPORT SYNDICATE</b> 18 E. Fifth St., Newport 859-491-8000 <a href="http://www.newportsyndicate.com">www.newportsyndicate.com</a>	Varies	30-500+	Varies	Non-refundable	Offers seven private rooms with unique Art Deco designs. Available for receptions and rehearsal dinners.
<b>NICHOLSON'S TAVERN &amp; PUB</b> 625 Walnut St., Downtown 513-564-9111 <a href="http://www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com">www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com</a>	Varies	Up to 75	Varies	Please call	Warm atmosphere of an authentic Scottish tavern. Two separate private dining areas available.
<b>NICOLA'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO</b> 1420 Sycamore St., Over-the-Rhine 513-721-6200 <a href="http://www.nicolasrestaurant.com">www.nicolasrestaurant.com</a>	Deposit equals 30% of estimated cost	Up to 140 in-side, plus a patio that seats 50	Varies	Within 72 hours, deposit is not refunded	Experience "authentic" Italian cuisine at one of the most beautiful fine dining restaurants in the city.
<b>NORLYN MANOR</b> 4440 St. Rte. 132, Batavia 513-732-9500 <a href="http://www.norlynmajor.com">www.norlynmajor.com</a>	Included in package/30%	650	\$29 and up	Full refund if re-booked	Elegant photo opportunities include a Juliet balcony, glass French doors, a pond and gazebo. One of Cincinnati's premier banquet halls designed with your day in mind.
<b>OAK RIDGE LODGE</b> 1300 Oak Ridge Road, Mt. Airy 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$450/\$150	120	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	Lodge in Mt. Airy Forest includes a small pavilion and patio area as well as playgrounds and meadows. Parking available.
<b>OASIS CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 902 Loveland-Miamiville Road, Loveland 513-583-8383 <a href="http://www.oasisconferencecenter.com">www.oasisconferencecenter.com</a>	Varies/\$1,000	50-900	\$35.99-\$59.99	Varies	Stunning outdoor patio with breathtaking golf course view. Numerous photo opportunities.



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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
PARKERS BLUE ASH GRILL 4200 Cooper Road, Blue Ash 513-891-8300 <a href="http://www.parkersblueashgrill.com">www.parkersblueashgrill.com</a>	None/\$100-\$200	10-100	\$17-\$40	Please call	Full-service, upscale, traditional steak and seafood restaurant with attentive service and relaxed atmosphere.
PAUL BROWN STADIUM 2 Paul Brown Stadium, Downtown 513-455-4830 <a href="http://www.bengals.com">www.bengals.com</a>	Depends on package/\$1,000	500 seated; 800 reception	\$25 and up	Please call	72-foot window wall with either sweeping city or river views, 45-foot bar, walk-out to stadium club seats.
PEBBLE CREEK GOLF COURSE AND EVENT CENTER 9799 Prechtel Road, Cincinnati 513-923-1188 ext. 11 <a href="http://www.pebblecreekgo.com">www.pebblecreekgo.com</a>	Varies	20-220	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	Set on a world-class golf course, the charming plantation-style building offers a veranda and in-house kitchen staff for your event, plus three recently renovated rooms.
PETERLOON ESTATE 8605 Hopewell Road, Indian Hill 513-791-7600 <a href="http://www.petarloon.org">www.petarloon.org</a>	Included in packages/50% of rental cost	150 max. indoor, 250 outdoor	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	Entrance hall with wood-burning fireplace, first-floor ceilings of 16 feet, extensive outdoor grounds.
THE PHOENIX 812 Race St., Downtown 513-721-8901 <a href="http://www.thephix.com">www.thephix.com</a>	Varies/\$150-\$3,000	20-500	Varies	Please call	Historic landmark building, 30-foot ceilings in Grand Ballroom, stained-glass windows and elegant, two-story marble staircase.
PINE LAKES LODGE 61680 Buskirk Lane, Salesville, OH 740-679-3617 <a href="http://www.pinelakeslodge.com">www.pinelakeslodge.com</a>	Varies/half of total bill in advance, two weeks prior paid in full	Up to 125	Varies, must bring in own caterer	2 months	Five-room bed & breakfast located 3.5 hours from Cincinnati. Full white-glove service. Elegant serving arrangements and more.
THE PLANTATION CLUB AT TWIN OAKS 450 E. 43rd St., Covington 859-581-6410 <a href="http://www.golfatwinoaks.com">www.golfatwinoaks.com</a>	\$500, non-refundable	270	\$22.95-\$37.95	Refundable if date is re-booked	Full-service banquet facility with a breathtaking veranda overlooking the course. The best-kept secret in Northern Kentucky.

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>THE POINT PAVILION</b> 620 Scott St., Covington 859-442-7776 <a href="http://www.yycater.com">www.yycater.com</a>	Included in package price/\$500 to \$1,000	440	All inclusive; from \$21.95	Non-refundable	A McHale's Hospitality Group Property. Charming full-service banquet room featuring chandelier and sconce lighting, all round tables, linen tablecloths and napkins, china, silverware and glassware. Exclusively catered by McHale's Catering.
<b>THE POLO GRILLE</b> 5035 Deerfield Blvd., Mason 513-701-POLO <a href="http://www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com">www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com</a>	Varies	50-300	Varies	Please call	Casual, contemporary with an exhibition kitchen and large central bar.
<b>THE PUB CRESTVIEW HILLS</b> 2853 Dixie Hwy, Crestview Hills, KY 859-426-PUBS (7827) <a href="http://www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com">www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com</a>	Varies	50-250	Varies	Please call	Authentic, high-energy British Pub. Also features open-air patio space.
<b>THE PUB AT ROOKWOOD MEWS</b> 2692 Madison Road, Norwood 513-841-BRIT (2748) <a href="http://www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com">www.tavernrestaurantgroup.com</a>	Varies	50-350	Varies	Please call	Authentic, high-energy British Pub. Open-air patio space that can accommodate as many as 75.
<b>PURCELL BANQUET CENTER</b> 3621 Glenmore Ave., Cheviot 513-481-1925 <a href="http://www.purcellbanquet.com">www.purcellbanquet.com</a>	\$400	400	\$22-\$30 per person	Loss of deposit	A classic reception setting that has been newly remodeled offering a hardwood dance floor. Associated with Hilvers Catering, but allows outside caterers.
<b>R.S.V.P. AT WARDS CORNER</b> 453 Wards Corner Road, Loveland 513-965-0511 <a href="http://www.villagepantrycatering.com">www.villagepantrycatering.com</a>	No fee with four-hour wedding package/\$500	400	\$26.50-\$32.50 and up	Refunded if re-booked	The walls are bathed in a soft, buttery yellow. Italian crystal chandeliers light the room. Wall sconces, gold mirrors and twinkling lights create a memorable, classic evening.



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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>RECEPTIONS INC.—EASTGATE</b> 4450 Eastgate Blvd., Eastgate 513-943-1888 <a href="http://www.receptionsinc.com">www.receptionsinc.com</a>	Varies	100-600	\$19-\$29	Varies	Whether you are planning a family party or a large event, Receptions will work with your vision and budget to create an occasion to remember.
<b>RECEPTIONS INC.—ERLANGER</b> 1379 Donaldson Highway, Erlanger 859-746-2700 <a href="http://www.receptionsinc.com">www.receptionsinc.com</a>	Varies	100-1,100	\$19-\$29	Varies	Whether you are planning a family party or a large event, Receptions will work with your vision and budget to create an occasion to remember.
<b>RECEPTIONS INC.—FAIRFIELD</b> 5975 Boymeil Drive, Fairfield 513-860-4100 <a href="http://www.receptionsinc.com">www.receptionsinc.com</a>	Varies	100-900	\$19-\$29	Varies	Whether you are planning a family party or a large event, Receptions will work with your vision and budget to create an occasion to remember.
<b>RECEPTIONS INC.—WEST 1</b> 3302 Westbourne Drive, Western Hills 513-922-6777 <a href="http://www.receptionsinc.com">www.receptionsinc.com</a>	Varies	325	\$19-\$29	Varies	Whether you are planning a family party or a large event, Receptions will work with your vision and budget to create an occasion to remember.
<b>RECEPTIONS INC.—WEST 2</b> 2323 Ferguson Road, Western Hills 513-922-6777 <a href="http://www.receptionsinc.com">www.receptionsinc.com</a>	Varies	275	\$19-\$29	Varies	Whether you are planning a family party or a large event, Receptions will work with your vision and budget to create an occasion to remember.
<b>ROYAL OAK COUNTRY CLUB</b> 1 Stillmeadow Drive, Cincinnati 513-752-6500 ext. 14 <a href="http://www.royaloakcountryclub.com">www.royaloakcountryclub.com</a>	Varies	Indoor 250, outdoor 350	Varies, please call.	Varies	Clubhouse offers floor-length windows extending to balconies overlooking a beautiful lake with a fountain and golf course. Full event coordination.
<b>SATISFACTION YACHT CHARTERS</b> 5819 Panama St., California, OH 513-231-9042 <a href="http://www.satisfactioncruises.com">www.satisfactioncruises.com</a>	\$1,500/\$2,000	50-150	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	Perfect location for rehearsal dinners, boutique weddings and anniversary parties. Serene waterfront property. Exclusive, exceptional service with three new themed menu packages. On-site private, paved parking.
<b>THE SAVANNAH CENTER</b> 5533 Chappell Crossing Blvd., West Chester 513-860-4142 <a href="http://www.savannahcenter.com">www.savannahcenter.com</a>	Please call/\$2,500 deposit	up to 1,200	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	This upscale reception site promises elegant surroundings in a convenient location. Fireworks package available. Spectacular solarium and award-winning chef.
<b>SCHIFF CONFERENCE AND BANQUET CENTER AT XAVIER UNIVERSITY</b> 1624 Herald Ave, Cincinnati 513-745-3428 <a href="http://www.cintascenter.com">www.cintascenter.com</a>	Package pricing/\$1,500	18-600	Package pricing	Please call	Elegantly appointed banquet room with arched windows and classic parquet dance floor. In-house catering; customized gourmet menu options. Convenient complimentary parking. Personalized wedding consulting.
<b>SHAKER RUN GOLF CLUB</b> 4361 Greentree Road, Lebanon 513-727-0007 <a href="http://www.shakerrungolfclub.com">www.shakerrungolfclub.com</a>	\$1,000 deposit	300	Varies	Non-refundable deposit	With a golf course as a breathtaking backdrop, exceptional cuisine and service, Shaker Run offers the perfect location for rehearsal dinners, ceremonies and receptions.
<b>SHARONVILLE CONVENTION CENTER</b> 11355 Chester Road, Sharonville 513-771-7744 <a href="http://www.sharonvilleconventioncenter.com">www.sharonvilleconventioncenter.com</a>	Included in per-person price/\$1,000	500	\$22-\$32	Non-refundable deposit	Convenient location with outstanding cuisine prepared on-site by Village Pantry Catering. Customized menus available. A thousand parking spaces.
<b>SHERATON CINCINNATI AIRPORT HOTEL</b> 2826 Terminal Drive, Hebron, KY <a href="http://www.sheraton.com/cincinnatiairport">www.sheraton.com/cincinnatiairport</a>	No rent- al fee/\$1,000 deposit	Up to 400; 350 with dance floor	\$21.95-\$39	Deposit refundable, if more than one-year notice	Celebrate your perfect union in new elegant ballroom with beautifully lighted ceilings and warm rich colors of wheat, gold and cranberry. Complimentary parking is just steps away from the ballroom entrance.
<b>SHERATON CINCINNATI NORTH HOTEL</b> 11320 Chester Road, Sharonville 513-771-2080 <a href="http://www.sheratoncincinnati.com">www.sheratoncincinnati.com</a>	\$2,000 deposit	Up to 600	Varies	Please call	Newly reconstructed facilities include two ballrooms, beautifully decorated in contemporary and classic styles featuring 18-foot ceilings and crystal chandeliers. Group room rate available.



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STARWOOD PREFERRED GUEST

ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>SIX ACRES BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b> 5350 Hamilton Ave., College Hill 513-541-0873 <a href="http://www.sixacresbb.com">www.sixacresbb.com</a>	\$1,500 package price includes room/\$500 non- refundable deposit and \$250 refund- able damage deposit	Indoor 50; Indoor/Out- door 75	On-site catering \$25 per adult, \$12.50 per child ages 3-10	All balances paid within 90 days; if cancel within 90 days 50% refund; cancel within 30 days no refund	The \$1,500 wedding package offers five guest rooms, a third floor dressing room, shuttle for guests and 22-hour rental of all facilities with set up and clean up included.
<b>STARLITE BALLROOM</b> 5994 Linnenm St., California, OH 513-624-0020 <a href="http://www.starliteballroomcincy.com">www.starliteballroomcincy.com</a>	Included in package/\$750	100-750 for dinner	\$25-\$41 all-inclusive	No refund of original deposit	One-half mile west of Coney Island. Everything included except cake and DJ.
<b>STONEWOOD BANQUET CENTER AT SHARON WOODS</b> 11655 Swing Road, Sharonville 513- 521-PARK <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	\$390/all depos- it amounts are credited toward food and bever- age purchase	135	\$13.60-\$19.50, gratuities not accepted	Must be in writ- ing. Only refunded if re-booked	Great views overlooking Sharon Woods Golf Center. Buffet menu includes four- hour banquet facility rental period, set up and clean up of the banquet room and more.
<b>SWEETWINE BANQUET CENTER AT WOODLAND MOUND</b> 600 Nordyke Road, Anderson 513-521-PARK <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	\$390/all depos- it amounts are credited toward food and bever- age purchase	150	\$13.60-\$19.50, gratuities not accepted	Must be in writ- ing. Only refunded if re-booked	Features a lovely covered patio. Buffet menu includes, four-hour banquet fa- cility rental period, set up and clean up of the banquet room and many more amenities.
<b>SYCAMORE CENTER</b> 4455 Claver Woods Road, Blue Ash 513-324-8521	\$500 deposit	200 seated	\$25 per person	Non-refundable deposit	Easy access—all one level, foyer with cathedral ceiling, dance floor and per- sonal attention prior and during your event.

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Aronoff Center - Balcony Lobby

Music Hall - Ballroom

ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
TAFT MUSEUM OF ART 316 Pike St., Downtown 513-884-4523 <a href="http://www.taftmuseum.org">www.taftmuseum.org</a>	Tent \$3,000/\$1,000 deposit	225	Varies/pREFERRED caterer list	Non-refundable deposit	Available May through October, our tented brick terrace provides a lovely setting for wedding receptions. Your guests can visit the galleries in the historic home.
THEODORE M. BERRY INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PARK 1331 Eastern Ave., Downtown 513-351-4777 <a href="http://www.parkweddings.com">www.parkweddings.com</a>	\$1,000/\$200	120	Varies	Non-refundable deposit. More than 6 months notice, full refund; 3-6 months, 50%; less than 3 months, none	Friendship Pavilion offers indoor spaces adjacent to riverfront park. Amazing views, one-of-a-kind facilities.
TRADITIONS GOLF CLUB 2035 Williams Road, Hebron 859-586-6691 <a href="http://www.traditionsgolfclub.com">www.traditionsgolfclub.com</a>	Please call	150	Varies	30 days	Features a view of more than 400 acres of wooded terrain. With vaulted ceiling and a cozy fireplace, this room is perfect for weddings, private parties and all celebrations.
TWIN LANTERNS BANQUET HALL 6191 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati 513-574-6655 <a href="http://www.twilanterns.com">www.twilanterns.com</a>	Included in wedding package/\$1,000	300	\$24.95-\$36.95	Non-refundable deposit; more than 6 months notice, full refund; less than 6 months, no refund	Newly renovated facility on the west side of town offers beautiful rooms and modern amenities in a classic and elegant setting.
THE VERNON MANOR HOTEL 400 Oak St., Clifton 513-487-5266 <a href="http://www.vernonmanorhotel.com">www.vernonmanorhotel.com</a>	\$500/\$1,000	up to 225	\$24-\$51	Refundable if more than a year prior; 9 months, 50% refund.	The Vernon Manor Hotel, a historical property operating since 1924, is the perfect place for your wedding ceremony and reception. Outdoor areas available.
VINOKLET WINERY 11069 Colerain Ave., Colerain Twp. 513-385-9309 <a href="http://www.vinokletwines.com">www.vinokletwines.com</a>	Included in package, per person \$39.95/\$500	160	\$39.95	Non-refundable	Outdoor wedding ceremony site priced at \$500 for one-hour ceremony if reception is booked at Vinoklet; \$800 for ceremony only.

## Perfect WeddingGuide

[PerfectWeddingGuide.com](http://PerfectWeddingGuide.com)

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ESTABLISHMENT	ROOM COST/ DEPOSIT	CAPACITY	FOOD COST/ PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>THE WHITE HOUSE INN</b> 4940 Muhauser Road, Hamilton 513-860-1110 <a href="http://www.heartlandcooking.com">www.heartlandcooking.com</a>	Menu prices/variables	20-300	\$12-\$28	Non-refundable deposit	Charming, nostalgic atmosphere for rehearsals dinners, weddings in the gazebo, Victorian garden or fireside receptions.
<b>WIEDEMANN HILL MANSION</b> 1102 Park Ave., Newport 859-655-9018 <a href="http://www.whilmansion.com">www.whilmansion.com</a>	Friday and Saturday nights: \$1,275, Sunday-Thursday: \$775; \$200 extra for wed- ding ceremony/ One half facility rental + cater- ing fee	Formal sit down dinner: 55; up to 75 for cocktails	Starts at \$25	Non-refundable de- posit; other fees negotiable	This beautifully restored private resi- dence is conveniently located with a spectacular city view. Featuring private and corporate event rentals, as well as extended stay suites. Great for rehears- al dinners.
<b>WINDOWS ON THE GREEN</b> 12110 Princeton Pike, Tri-County 513-346-2736 <a href="http://www.geaaa.org/wog">www.geaaa.org/wog</a>	\$325- \$500/\$325- \$500	225	\$3,750 minimum	180 days or more than event, deposit refunded; less than 180 days, no refund	Located inside GE Park, country club setting with cathedral ceiling and stone fireplace, individualized menus and ample parking.
<b>WINGATE INN &amp; MERIDIAN CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 7500 Tylers Place Blvd., West Chester 513-777-1101 <a href="http://www.meridianconference.com">www.meridianconference.com</a>	\$495- \$995/\$1,000 deposit	284	\$22-\$30 per person	Please call	Modern, contemporary styling with original artwork, this facility is conven- ient to I-75.
<b>WINTON WOODS PARKY'S FARM</b> 10073 Daly Road, Springfield Twp. <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	None/\$390	100	\$11-\$22	Must be in writing. Only refunded if re-booked	This unique, historic facility features original framework, hardwood dance floor and beautiful, detailed interior with a charming country atmosphere.
<b>WITHROW NATURE PRESERVE</b> Five Mile Road, Anderson 513-521-PARK <a href="http://www.greatparks.org">www.greatparks.org</a>	\$650 rental fee for six hours	75; up to 125 on lawn	\$13.60-\$19.50, gratuities not accepted	Must be in writing. Only refunded if re-booked	Hamilton County Park District's Wed- ding Setting. Includes 270 acres of beautiful scenery and excellent accommodations.
<b>THE WOODLANDS</b> 9680 Cleve Road, Cleves 513-353-2593 <a href="http://www.thewoodlandshall.com">www.thewoodlandshall.com</a>	All-inclusive fa- cility, no gra- tuity or service charge/\$500 deposit	1,000 and up	\$19.95-\$28.95	Please call	This event space nestled in Cleves of- fers a large, hardwood dance floor and complete audio/visual capabilities.
<b>THE WOODLANDS CRYSTAL ROOM</b> 11450 Sebring Drive, Cincinnati 513-742-8400 <a href="http://www.thewoodlandshall.com">www.thewoodlandshall.com</a>	All-inclusive fa- cility, no gra- tuity or service charge/\$500 deposit	Up to 300	\$19.95-\$28.95	Please call	Completely renovated space.
<b>WUNDERLAND BANQUET HALL</b> 7881 Colerain Ave., Grosbeck/Colerain 513-931-2261 <a href="http://www.wunderlandhall.com">www.wunderlandhall.com</a>	All-inclusive packages/\$750	75-380	\$19.95-\$36.95	Non-refundable deposit	Elegant décor. On-site catering with separate buffet room. Large dance floor. Unique landscaping with deck and gazebo.
<b>YORK STREET CAFÉ</b> 738 York St., Newport 859-261-9675 <a href="http://www.yorkstonline.com">www.yorkstonline.com</a>	\$200 room fee, then 10% of food and beverage/\$200	20-180	Varies	Non-refundable; may be applied to another date	Specializing in rehearsal dinners and showers, York Street Café offers three floors and a patio. Featuring made- from-scratch homecooking and an anti- que ambience.

## how to shop for a caterer

- Know your budget; know your style. Before you invest time in interviewing caterers, you should know when and where your wedding will take place, and also have a good idea about your needs (approximate number of guests, preference for buffet, stations or sit-down) and the atmosphere you want to create.
- Six to eight months before your wedding, start interviewing caterers. Ask for credentials, pictures and a taste test. Some caterers will invite you to sample exact menu items during a visit to their kitchens; others will prefer you attend an upcoming event to get a better sense of food quality, presentation and service.
- Ask for references, especially if they have had their receptions at the location you plan to use.
- Ask about flexibility of the caterer's menu. Can you add options for guests with special dietary needs?
- Ask where the food is cooked, how it is transported, how it is served and who is responsible for setup and cleanup.
- Find out what services are included in catering package prices—wait staff, place settings, glassware, cutlery, linens, decorative supplies, etc.
- Ask about your bar needs. Most caterers can accommodate couples who want to serve alcohol, but responsibilities should be clear up front.



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An advertisement for "Incredible Endings". It features two tiered wedding cakes. The cake on the left is white with intricate floral decorations. The cake on the right is white with red roses. The background is dark, making the cakes stand out. The text "Incredible Endings" is written in a large, elegant script font above the phone number.

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# caterer locator

To help you choose the best caterer for your celebration, we offer the **Caterer Locator**. The information provided is understood to be current, but make sure to check with each caterer for specific details and the most updated information.

ESTABLISHMENT	FOOD COST PER PERSON	CANCELLATION POLICY	COMMENTS
<b>A TASTE OF CLASS CATERING INC.</b> 3415 Glenmore Ave., Cincinnati 513-481-3663; <a href="http://www.attasteofclass.com">www.attasteofclass.com</a>	\$8-\$35 and up	Flexible	Provides full-service catering for the culinary tastes of today.
<b>BENSON'S CATERING</b> 101 Riverboat Row, Newport 859-655-3850; <a href="http://www.bensonscatering.com">www.bensonscatering.com</a>	\$14 and up	Varies	Full-service catering for any occasion. Artistic presentations and culinary delights your guests will remember.
<b>CHEF'S CHOICE CATERING</b> 11350 Grooms Road, Blue Ash 513-489-6006; <a href="http://www.chefschoicecatering.net">www.chefschoicecatering.net</a>	\$7-\$40	6 months	Wedding, rehearsal dinners, grill-outs and bar mitzvahs. Options range from casual to elegant.
<b>COFFEE EMPORIUM</b> 110 E. Central Parkway, Downtown 3316 Erie Ave., Hyde Park 513-321-5943; <a href="http://www.coffee-emporium.com">www.coffee-emporium.com</a>	Varies	48 hours	Provides gourmet coffees, teas, muffins and bagels. Offers a portable espresso cart with a variety of coffee drinks.
<b>CUISINE BY JEAN-ROBERT</b> 517 W. Seventh St., Newport 859-581-0363; <a href="http://www.jeanrobertgroup.com">www.jeanrobertgroup.com</a>	\$25 and up	Before 8 weeks, full refund; 6 weeks, 1/2 refund; no penalty if re-booked	For your next special event, surround yourself with only the best, and let us cater to your needs. The team at Cuisine by Jean-Robert is waiting to serve you and yours!
<b>DAVEED'S AT 934</b> 934 Hatch St., Mt. Adams 513-721-COOK (2665) <a href="mailto:daveeds934@aol.com">daveeds934@aol.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.daveeds.net">www.daveeds.net</a>	\$45-\$85	2 weeks prior to event, or lose \$200 deposit	Eclectic, contemporary cuisine with Mediterranean and Asian influences. Cocktail space available in garden patio offers an adventurous dining experience, weather permitting.
<b>DESTINY'S CATERING AND BANQUETS AT BECKETT RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB</b> 5595 Beckett Ridge Blvd., Ste. B, West Chester 513-858-2122; <a href="http://www.destinyscatering.com">www.destinyscatering.com</a>	\$10.99 and up	Refundable deposit, if re-booked	Destiny's Catering offers exceptional food, top-notch customer service and intricate attention to detail.
<b>EAT WELL CATERING</b> 513-515-0998; <a href="http://www.eatwellonline.com">www.eatwellonline.com</a>	\$35 and up	Full refund four months prior to event	Chef-owned catering service specializing in on-site fine dining.
<b>ELEGANT FAIRE</b> 2575 Commerce Blvd., Sharonville 513-552-1340; <a href="http://www.elegantfaire.com">www.elegantfaire.com</a>	\$20 and up	Varies	Elegant Faire Catering has won many prestigious awards in the Cincinnati and Dayton areas for its professional service, exquisite food presentation and fine cuisine.
<b>HILVERS CATERING</b> 2724 Colerain Ave, Camp Washington 513-681-2135; <a href="http://www.hilvers.com">www.hilvers.com</a>	\$6-\$40	\$100 deposit refunded with 14 day notice	Family owned and operated since 1931.
<b>JEFF THOMAS CATERING</b> 815 Oak St., Ludlow 859-291-0286; <a href="http://www.jeffthomascatering.com">www.jeffthomascatering.com</a>	\$28 and up	Before 6 months, full refund; 3-6 months, 1/2 refund; 1-3 months, 1/4 refund; month of event, no refund	With 23 years of experience, weddings make up a large portion of this company's business.
<b>LA PETITE PIERRE</b> 7800 Camargo Road, Madeira 513-527-4909; <a href="http://www.lapetitepierre.com">www.lapetitepierre.com</a>	\$25-\$35	Varies	Offering full-service packages for events ranging from casual to gourmet.
<b>MCHALE'S HOSPITALITY GROUP</b> 1622 Dixie Highway, Park Hills 859-442-7776; <a href="http://www.kycaterer.com">www.kycaterer.com</a>	Please call for quote	Percentage refunded if room re-booked	Northern Kentucky's preferred caterer and event specialist.
<b>MONTGOMERY INN CATERING</b> 11314 Tamarac Drive, Blue Ash 513-852-6733; <a href="http://www.montgomeryinn.com">www.montgomeryinn.com</a>	\$10-\$25	Less than 3 days before event charged in full	Montgomery Inn's catering will exceed everyone's expectations with more than just ribs.
<b>VILLAGE PANTRY CATERING</b> 453 Wards Corner Road, Loveland 513-965-0511; <a href="http://www.villagepantrycatering.com">www.villagepantrycatering.com</a>	\$11.50 and up	Non-refundable deposit	Customized menus.
<b>VONDERHAAR'S CATERING, INC.</b> 19 W. Pleasant St., Reading 513-554-1969; <a href="http://www.vonderhaar.com">www.vonderhaar.com</a>	\$8 and up	Varies	Full-service catering provides a casual atmosphere and menus or an elegant, formal buffet or sit-down reception.



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## Classic Romance pages 42-55



### page 43

Jocelyn in a cream sheath gown with large bow in front by Carolina Herrera, \$4,025, from European Bridal. Limited edition 25th anniversary collection of ring, \$1,100; earrings, \$1,100; and necklace, \$1,100; all by Pandora available at Yelton's Fine Jewelry through December 2008. "Golden apple" hairpin, \$225, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. "Alicia" t-strap with sparkle shoes by Grazia, from Bridal and Formal. Bouquet of white tulips by Courtenay Lambert for Courtenay Lambert Florals, Weddings and Events.



### page 46

Cream v-neck embroidered lace floral gown by Carolina Herrera, \$5,250, from European Bridal. "Heatwave" bracelet, \$765; "Heatwave" necklace, \$825; and "Philadelphia Story" earrings, \$240; all by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. 18k white and rose gold diamond ring by Simon G., \$12,320, from Yelton's Fine Jewelry. Crystal tiara, \$229, from European Bridal. White dinner jacket by Lora

Piama \$1,395, from Romualdo. Boutonnieres by Cincinnati Urban Floral Design.



### page 44

Jade in a boat neck sequin gown, \$3,000, from Bridal and Formal. "Fantana" hairpin, \$300, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. Diamond branch bracelet, \$7,880; pink amethyst ring, \$985; and rubellite and diamond earrings, \$14,640; all by Haim Becker from One in a Million.



### page 47

Bias-cut charmeuse gown with drape neck by Augusta Jones, \$1,600, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. Sterling silver and diamond cuff, \$3,948; white and yellow gold pendant with gold chain, \$4,900; 18k white gold and pave diamond ring, \$2,395; and 18k white and yellow diamond earrings, \$5,990, all from The Richter & Phillips Co.



### page 45

Lace back empire waist dress by Forever Yours, \$600, from Bridal and Formal. Diamond circle necklace, 18k, \$5,995; and 18k and diamond (.52 carat) pave earrings, \$995; both from The Richter & Phillips Co. "Green Fire" hairpin, \$405, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. Bouquet by Fassler Floral & Event Designers. Andrew in Joseph Abboud ivory dinner jacket, \$525, with Dion silk paisley

stripe charcoal vest and bowtie, \$279, all items for purchase from Skeffington's Formal Wear.



### page 48

Empire waist with beading and tulle skirt gown by Amalee, \$4,250, from Bridal and Formal. 18k white gold diamond spray necklace with total diamond weight of 4.8 carats, \$19,850, from James Free Jewelers. "Luxury Liner" headpiece, \$630, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal.



### page 49

Antique white silk gown by Nicole Miller, \$880, from Bridal Designs. Hand-wrought 22k gold nugget, tsavorite garnet, and aquamarine earrings; and coordinating bracelet in 22k gold nugget, 22k gold boulder, tsavorite garnet and aquamarine; delicate, 22k gold and yellow diamond double strand necklace; 9 stackable 22k gold rings with various gems; all from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri

(contact store for pricing). "Golden Apple" hairpin, \$225, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal. Bouquet by Mike Bourke at arrangements by Jones the Florist.



### page 50

Monique Lhuillier halter dress, \$6,325, a-line, full-length dress with deep v-neck, adjustable shoulder ties and long convertible sash in off-white silk taffeta by Jenny Yoo, \$690, from Carrie Kariboo Bridesmaids. 18k white gold bracelet, \$2,650; 18k white gold earrings, \$3,450; 18k white gold necklace, \$2,100; 18k white gold ring by Tacori, \$1,970; all from Rogers Jewelers. Bouquet by Mariemont Florist.



### page 51

Ivory "Ashley" dress with pink sash by Forever Yours, \$800, from Bridal and Formal. Ring from J Peck Jewelers (contact store for pricing). Hearts on Fire earrings, \$1,950; Hearts on Fire diamond bracelet, \$8,900; both from Rogers Jewelers.



### page 52

Ruched corset top with sparkle strap gown (Style 3310) by Eugenia, \$5,150, from European Bridal. 18k white gold, sapphire and diamond drop necklace, \$3,390; earrings, \$2,925; and ring, \$5,295; all by Leddel International from Yelton's Fine Jewelry. Hand-made feather, crystal and pearl headpiece, \$189, from European Bridal. Bouquet and boutonnieres by Kevin Ford, Ford-Ellington Florist and Event Design. Jo-

seph Abboud Super 120s, two-button tuxedo, \$575, with Dion silver silk woven brocade pattern vest and bowtie, \$319, all items for purchase from Skeffington's Formal Wear.



### page 53

Gown by Manuel Mota for Pronovias, \$4,350, from Bridal and Formal. Platinum pave bracelet with 193 round diamonds, \$15,820; 18k white-gold multi-strand diamond necklace, with total diamond weight of 11.07 carats, \$24,875; both from James Free Jewelers. Satin and crystal headband, \$149, from European Bridal.



### page 54

Cream dress with tulle overlay, embroidered at bottom and lace straps by Claire Pettibone, \$2,700, from Bridal and Formal. Necklace with 22k gold and moonstone clasp and bohemian, precision-cut 32 percent lead crystal from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri. "Grand Tour" bracelet, \$375, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal.

## Classic Romance (continued)



page 55

Pink embroidered mermaid dress by Lazaro, \$6,000, from Bridal and Formal, 22k gold with diamond and misty grey sapphire drop earrings; 22k gold, misty grey sapphire, Keshi pearl and opal bracelet; both from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri. "Golden Apple" hairpin, \$225, by Debra Moreland is Paris from Bridal and Formal.

## Bold Bridesmaids pages 56-60



page 56

Buttercup v-neck, a-line gown in gathered chiffon, \$210, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique, 22k gold and South Sea "Goldens" pearl with delicate topaz tassels, necklace, and a removable topaz drop; with matching bracelet and earrings; all from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri.



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(From left to right) **Courtney:** Sweetheart strapless chiffon dress in wasabi with cayman blue grosgrain ribbon, \$162, by B2, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. Pandora drop necklace from the Match Collection, \$87; sterling silver Pandora bracelet, \$50; beads priced from \$25; all from Yelton's Fine Jewelry. Gold jeweled star hair comb, \$65, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. **Liza:** A-line, knee-length dress in jade silk dupioni with sky blue satin sash by Charsa, \$285, from Carrie Karbo Bridesmaids. Matching

necklace, \$1,295, and earrings, \$1,050, from Gabriel & Co. in 14k yellow gold and semi-precious stones from Yelton's Fine Jewelry.

**Laura:** a-line, tea-length dress in periwinkle-striped taffeta by Kathlin Argiro, \$290, from Carrie Karbo Bridesmaids. Hairpin in pink and ivory pearls with diamantines by Toni Federici, \$180, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. Amethyst necklace, \$325; and earrings, \$595; by Lyric from Yelton's Fine Jewelry.



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(From left to right) **Olivia:** Coral chiffon halter dress with satin trim by Bagley-Mischka, \$255, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. 22k gold and moonstone earring top, w/ South Sea "Golden" Pearl drop, 22k gold and Cat's Eye Beryl triple-strand necklace with 22k gold and Peruvian opal clasp; all from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri. Coral shell and freshwater pearl hair comb, \$240, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. **Lauren:** Pink tulle dress with matching satin ribbon by B2, \$130, from Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal Boutique. Yellow cat's eye and amethyst necklace, \$790, by Gena Hoshihara and matching earrings, \$135, by Charles Albert, from One in a Million. **Blair:** "Jasmine" dress by B2, \$150, from Bridal and Formal. Cherry Jade necklace by Gena Hoshihara, \$1,690, and matching earrings by Amy Kahn Russell, \$210, from One in a Million.



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(From left to right) **Blair:** Empire waist, knee-length dress with sweetheart neckline in wave silk chiffon/silk charmeuse combination by Thread, \$440, from Carrie Karbo Bridesmaids. 22k gold and sapphire "Raindrop" earrings; handwrought 22k gold boulder necklace with Australian opals, Afghanistan lapis, aquamarine, and blue topaz; from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri. **Courtney:** Teal dress with black bow sash by Vera Wang, \$225, from Bridal and Formal. 22k gold collar necklace with sapphire, teal blue tourmalines, London blue topaz and freshwater pearl baroque pearl, with earrings to match; from the Bridal Couture Fine Jewelry Collection by Sarah Squeri.

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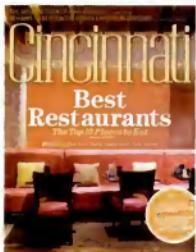
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